

CHRISTIAN COURIER

A Reformed Biweekly

54th Year of Publication

March 22, 1999

No. 2808 \$1.60

John Bell teaches a new song for a renewed church



John Bell in action.

John Bell present a seminar called "The Joy of Worship."

Bell is a musician, hymn writer, ordained pastor in the Church of Scotland and seminar leader who hails from Glasgow. The one-day conference held on Jan. 23 provided both joy and worship, as Bell taught participants more than a dozen new songs. Like David of old, he said, we need constantly to be singing a new song to the Lord.

But the seminar also focused on issues that confront the church today, especially dealing with liturgical/musical change and acting with integrity in worship and worship planning.

Jessie Schut

EDMONTON — Many churches are engaged in worship wars these days, as changing worship styles kindle dissension and even anger. As an antidote, 130 people from half a dozen denominations gathered at the King's University College recently to hear

Things change

We don't have a very good theology of change, said Bell. The truth is, where God is present, people change. All things are transformed and made new in God's ordering of things. Just think of

See CHANGE page 2...

Do we manage time or does time manage us?

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY

CHRISTIAN COURIER
PER/BX/9401/.C36

MAR 23 1999

In this issue, we address the topic of time and our use of it. See pp. 11-18 for articles on the theme of "Time Management."

Pictured here is a clock from a French emperor's chamber by Bailly, 1790.

Gilt bronze on a marble base, with a figure of Astronomy holding a telescope and compass, the celestial sphere, the zodiac and an astronomical frieze (Time and Space, by Samuel Guey and Henri Michel).



PHOTO: SADAG S.A. GENEVA

Cancelled hunt makes bear hunters feel 'endangered'

Alan Doerksen

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. — The Ontario government's recent decision to cancel the spring bear hunt has made some hunters feel like they've become an endangered species, they say. Although many hunters oppose the ban, one former hunter in St. Catharines, Ont., believes cancelling the hunt was a good decision.

David Goicoechea is a philosophy professor at Brock University who spent many years hunting in his spare time for animals such as bears and ducks. "I was born in Idaho," he explains. "I grew up in a family that fished and hunted very much. I've always lived this way. My brothers still get most of their meat from fish and game."

On the wall of Goicoechea's office hangs a bearskin rug. "I have killed a bear both in spring and fall," he explains, adding that his hunting has always been

"primarily for the meat. I always eat anything I kill."

Goicoechea has a cottage north of Sudbury, Ont., where he has

hunted in the past. He also used to hunt in the St. Catharines area but stopped around 1980 because the area was getting more crowded. "I

felt like I was being hunted," he remarks.

Some time ago, Goicoechea married Johanna Tito, a vegetarian who supports animal rights groups. Since then, he has given up hunting. In fact, the Goicoecheas both recently signed a petition calling on the Ontario government to end the spring bear hunt.

Mothers, cubs need protection

One advantage Goicoechea sees in cancelling the spring hunt is that mother bears with young cubs will be protected. But he notes, "Most hunters usually would refrain from shooting a mother with cubs. [Most realize] they're just not practising conservation when they do that."

He asserts that people in northern Ontario who make their living from hunting will be affected greatly. "I'm sure it's going to hurt

them quite a bit."

Johanna Tito calls the government's decision to cancel the hunt "excellent. The Minister of Natural Resources [John Snobelen] has taken a bold step." She stresses the importance of protecting mother bears with cubs. Often mothers will wander far from their cubs to find food, so hunters may not be able to recognize mother bears. "It takes 30 days for a bear cub to starve to death," she adds.

Tito has written several letters to the Ontario government about this issue over the past few years. The petition she sent in recently also calls for the government to ban the use of bait and dogs by bear hunters, and not to extend the fall bear hunt. She notes that some hunters, such as her husband, do support the cancellation of the spring bear hunt.

See CONSERVATION p. 3...



David Goicoechea and wife Johanna stand in front of a bear-skin rug.

News

Change 'tickles' head, heart or gut

... continued from page 1

Sarah, he advised. She traded in her old age pension for a maternity allowance.

Jonah didn't want "his church" to change to include heathens. If the Ninevites believed, things could get messy, and upset his view of church, asserted Bell. But God had other ideas.

When evangelization demands that we change our language, are we going to be recalcitrant and belligerent, like Jonah? asked Bell. On the other hand, if the language does not speak to those who don't know God, are we going to make the church an everlasting theme park to which people come only to observe the exhibits but don't stay to become part of it?

Intellectual assent

When people are against change, it's good to find out where the change is bothering them. "Their reaction to change centres on one of three areas," explained Bell. "It 'tickles' their head, or



Singing to John Bell's tune.

their heart, or their gut."

For Reformed people, whose approach to worship has traditionally been intellectual, change usually tickles their heads. The centrality of Reformed worship is the words of the Bible as preached by the minister. We're suspicious of movement, color, drama, feelings. "We can't do it because of our tradition" or "We've never done it like that before" is the

refrain of many. But the "traditions" being opposed often go back only as far as the childhood of those opposing them.

"We must give people information about origins of traditions," says Bell. "Think about all the changes that have happened in the church. The only constant is that traditions change."

Emotional assent

On the other hand, when people react emotionally to change, the changes are tickling their hearts. People may say something like, "It doesn't feel right." Perhaps people can't let their childhood go, suggests Bell. It was their "womb of faith" where they first met Jesus, and that's what their faith is based on. Or they have an emotional wound that was re-opened by the change.

"We need to let people talk through the grief, help them let go of their childhood. They have a hurt that needs to be healed, and listening and caring will often help them accept the change," suggests Bell.

Irrational fear

The third reaction to change comes from the gut. People reacting in this manner may say, "You can't do that! I'll leave this church/withhold my money/write a letter to council." This reaction

stems from a fear of losing face or power. Change brings vulnerability, and people fear vulnerability.

"We need to break these bonds," says Bell. "We need to name and confront this need for power and say we will not be subject to blackmail."

Nowhere in the church do these reactions come more strongly than in the area of music. That's because music touches all areas of our lives: our intellect, our heart and our bodies. It's a total offering to God, said Bell.

Integrity in worship

Bell also addressed integrity. "We learn our theology from the songs we sing," he said. "People will forget the most eloquent sermons, but they'll remember 'Jesus loves me, this I know.' They'll hum songs throughout the week."

So if we sing only praise songs, what kind of theology are we teaching? he asked participants. Are we teaching that God is a sad man in the sky who needs to be tickled by our praise songs to keep him happy?

"If we sing only contemporary praise songs that focus on 'Jesus and me and me and Jesus,' a whole part of our spirituality has not been presented to God," said Bell. There are times when worshippers come before the Lord with anger, depression or confusion in their hearts. These real feelings also need to be offered up to God in songs of lament and confession.

"We need to be real rather than nice," he said.

In the same way, a slavish following of denominational hymnals which focus on a specific musical tradition will impoverish worshippers, asserted Bell. They will miss out on other rich traditions.

Careful planning

Integrity must also be the watchword of the musicians who teach new songs to the church. They must choose music carefully and present it confidently so it helps people worship. That means musicians need to plan prayerfully, practice thoroughly and make sure that the instruments that are used to accompany congregational singing suit the expressions of the chosen songs.

Worship leaders need to distinguish between performance music and participatory music. While there is a place in the worship service for people to offer their special gifts to the Lord, congregational song is the primary vehicle to praise God and bring the community together.

Yes, there will be "worship wars," said Bell, because people are infinitely different in their musical tastes and appreciation.

But we need to be together with people with whom we don't necessarily agree. "Think of Jesus and the 12 followers he chose. He never had unity within that body, so why should we think that is what we will get?"

AMSTERDAM 1999

Non Stop Charter Flights
via MARTINAIR HOLLAND
Departs (Mon.&Thurs.)



	Adult	Senior (Age 60+)	Child (age 2-15)
April 26, 29	559	539	499
May 03, 06, 10, 13	579	559	499
May 17, 20, 24, 27, 31	599	579	509
Jun 03, 07, 10, 14	639	599	529
Jun 17, 21, 24, 28	699	659	549
Jul 01, 05, 08, 12	759	699	599
Jul 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	799	739	599
Aug 02, 05, 09, 12	799	739	599
Aug 16, 19, 23, 26, 30	759	699	599
Sep 02, 06, 09, 13	699	659	549
Sep 16, 20, 23, 27, 30	639	599	529
Oct 04, 07, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25	599	579	499
Oct 28 (westbound only)			

Airport taxes \$59 p.p. Insurance extra.

STAR CLASS surcharge \$240 one way.

(Star Class offers comfortable spacious seating in separate cabin, gourmet meals and priority check-in).

Book Now! We are your official Martinair agent.

"We will match all competitor's prices. Call us now!"

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES

14845 Yonge St., #300, Aurora, ON L4G 6H8

Phone: (416) 969-8100/Long Distance 1-800-565-9267

36 Secord Dr., St. Catharines, ON L2N 1K8,

Phone (905) 934-4414

Henny Vuyk (905) 934-0666

Visit us: www.verstraete.com

Share the fun

Tell us in 300 words or less about a worthwhile vacation you enjoyed in your own part of the country, a vacation you would recommend to others. We would like to include your story in our upcoming Vacation Issue of May 3. A picture is optional. Deadline: April 7. Editor

New songs in a new way

Jessie Schut

EDMONTON, Alta. — The Joy of Worship conference was only a few minutes old when Bell stepped forward, raised his hands and began to sing. Within minutes, he had all 130 participants singing a new song in four-part harmony.

Participants were amazed at how quickly and easily they were able to "sing a new song to the Lord." During an analysis of Bell's process, they discovered the following:

1. Use an unaccompanied voice to teach a new song. Voices imitate voices, not pianos or flutes.
2. Worship leaders should use their bodies as they lead the singing. Bell signalled note changes by raising and lowering his hands and arms. Even novice singers can "read" this kind of music.
3. Invest in pew cord and rope off the back pews. Members need to be sitting close enough to other members to hear each other sing.
4. Teach new songs before a service rather than just before you need to sing them in the service.
5. Teach from memory rather than from written music. This means the worship leaders themselves need to be thoroughly grounded in the music.
6. Expect great things. Congregation members will be less than enthusiastic about learning new songs if they're introduced half-heartedly.
7. Spread a rumor that your congregation really knows how to sing. Let people believe in their own voices. Negative feedback can do major damage long after a comment thoughtlessly made.

News/Politics

Conservation groups 'massively in favor' of hunt cancellation

... continued from page 1

Chris Henschel, a wildlife ecologist with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, observes that until now, the black bear was "the only large mammal in Ontario with two hunting seasons" — spring and fall. The federation supports the cancellation strongly, he says. "From an ecological perspective, it was the best decision to end it immediately."

Henschel notes that black bears are "certainly not designated as an

endangered species." But in springtime, "when bears come out from hibernation, they're quite vulnerable," he explains. Henschel says it is hard to estimate what effects the loss of bears would have on a particular habitat, but asserts, "We would advocate for a precautionary principle" — [preserving bears]. "There would definitely be changes in the population sizes of other animals."

According to Henschel, it is hard to estimate how many black

bears are killed each year because until very recently, Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) "has not required numbers by Canadian hunters or of nuisance bears." American hunters, however, are required to report the number of bears they kill.

Poachers kill more bears

But poachers kill more bears than legal hunters, says Henschel. "The poaching numbers are greater than the amount killed by

legal hunters."

Anne White, a spokesperson for MNR, says that an average of 6,835 bears per year have been killed by hunters in Ontario between 1990 and 1997. This compares to a total bear population of 75,000 to 100,000 bears in the province. According to MNR, between 2,000 and 3,000 bears are killed during each spring hunt.

Some observers are surprised that Ontario's Progressive Conservative government — headed by Mike Harris, from North Bay, Ont. — decided to cancel the hunt. But Henschel says the federation was not surprised by the cancellation. "The time was a bit of a surprise and the fact that there was no phase-out plan," he notes.

Since banning the spring hunt, the Ontario government has been planning to extend the fall bear hunt by two weeks, which would mean it would start in late August rather than September 1, and run till the end of November. "I think that's inappropriate. That's a political move," asserts Henschel. But if the fall hunt is extended, he adds, "I think that is preferable to having the spring bear hunt."

Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) opposes the ban on the bear hunt. "We are adamant that it should be reinstated," insists Mark Holmes, communications specialist for OFAH. "The decision was not based on facts or economic realities."

Holmes says his agency was surprised by the government's decision to cancel the hunt. Up until two weeks before the announcement, the government had assured OFAH the hunt was not to be cancelled, he says. The government has also given assurances to OFAH that other hunts will not be cancelled, but Holmes questions those assurances, in light of the government's change of position on the bear hunt.

Tip of financial iceberg

Holmes asserts there will be major consequences as a result of the cancelled hunt. "The initial loss of tourism is only the tip of the financial iceberg," he says. One result he predicts is: "There will be more bears and more nuisance bears.... You'll see increased cost in bear control." Some mother bears may be shot because they are considered "nuisance bears," leading to more orphaned bear cubs, he asserts.

"The anti-hunting movement will be bolstered by this success," and will try to ban other kinds of hunting, he says. But OFAH has plans to lobby the government to consider its point of view. Just as animals rights groups have co-operated in lobbying the government, so pro-hunting groups are planning to work more closely together. "We are working at consolidating fishing and hunting groups across the province," explains Holmes.

Perhaps to pacify OFAH, Ontario's Natural Resources Minister John Snobelen has decided to hand over responsibility for training and licensing of new hunters from the government to OFAH. According to the *Toronto Star*, the province will pay OFAH as much as \$350,000 over five years to run the training and licensing program.

On March 4, Snobelen announced a compensation package for bear hunt operators of \$250 per hunter who used their services in spring 1998.

Compensation

The federation has been conducting "a longstanding campaign" to end the bear hunt, says Henschel. Although the hunt's cancellation will affect hunting camp operators and communities that benefit from the influx of hunters, he says the government is planning a compensation package for such people.

Liz White, who works with media relations for the Animal Alliance of Canada, says the alliance is "massively in favor of the cancellation," and has been campaigning against the bear hunt for four years.

She explains that the alliance and other animal protection groups have joined together to form a group called Environment Voters, which has focused on holding Ontario politicians accountable for their views on issues such as hunting. Focusing on 26 "vulnerable" P.C. ridings, Environment Voters "looked at swinging enough votes to defeat the incumbent," explains White.

Looking for cracks

"The intent is not to defeat the government. Our goal is to determine who is vulnerable [and] to extract a political consequence.... It took a whiff of the political consequences for the Ontario government to change its ways."

But the Ontario Federation of

Babies smile before they are born

As many readers by now know, my wife and I were blessed last November with a daughter, although the blessing came much sooner than we would have wished and was tempered with considerable anguish.

Theresa Dawn Calvert Koyzis was born just over three months prematurely, at 26 weeks gestational age. She spent the next 10 weeks in two Hamilton, Ontario, hospitals, where she received wonderfully attentive care from dedicated physicians, nurses and technicians before being allowed to come home almost four weeks before her original due date.

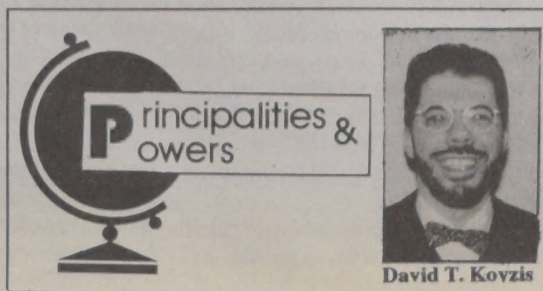
Needless to say, our daughter's early arrival has overwhelmed our lives. November, December and half of January were spent driving back and forth once or twice a day between home and hospital, and even after her homecoming we have paid numerous visits to her pediatrician and our family doctor.

This has given me less time than I would have liked to reflect on politics outside the classroom context. Even the impeachment trial of a U.S. president, an extraordinary event that would otherwise have occupied my attention, passed largely unnoticed.

Unexpected side-effect

However, one side-effect of our experience came somewhat unexpectedly. During that stressful time, I found it emotionally difficult, if not impossible, to read or listen to anything having to do with abortion. I cannot say that my overall attitude towards abortion was fundamentally changed, because I've always considered myself pro-life. Yet I'll never again look at it in quite the same abstract, analytical way.

When Theresa was born she was not quite through the second trimester. Yet she already had her own distinct personality, and we quickly came to know her likes and dislikes. She would get angry if she couldn't see us from her position in the incubator. She hated the ventilator tube in her throat and pulled it out as soon as she was strong enough. Virtually from the beginning, she smiled when she was content. And she knew when it was time to be fed. In short, our little girl was obviously



David T. Koyzis

a person in her own right and not simply a mass of tissue.

Our experience has persuaded me that babies surely smile in the womb. And if they smile, I am further convinced that they are capable of feeling terror and pain, at which point I ache at the thought of drawing further conclusions.

Horrible irony

There is a horrible irony in our daughter's plight as a "premie." Had she been born full-term and remained the entire nine months in the womb, she would not have enjoyed during that time the normal status of personhood protected by law. But because she experienced something abnormal, namely, being born too early, she thus acquired "normal" legal status.

This leads to the rather perverse conclusion that it is better from a legal, if not medical, standpoint for an unborn child to be born early.

Of course, arguments from compassion cannot settle this or other issues, as I've argued before in this space, since such arguments can easily be marshalled on both sides. Yet neither are simple appeals to reason adequate to resolve the abortion controversy, since neither pro-lifers nor pro-choicers are being illogical from within their respective frames of reference.

One is tempted to observe that, lacking the biblical notion of the image of God, it is difficult to make a credible moral or legal case that we are obligated to treat as worthy of living all human beings, irrespective of their differential capacities for self-awareness, intelligence and physical wholeness.

David T. Koyzis teaches political science at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario. Photographs of Theresa can be found at <http://www.redeemer.on.ca/academics/polisci/theresa.html>.

Television kills childhood because it tells all.

Editorial

Identity in a time of generic Christianity

I saw James Schaap's production of "Our Family Album: Free to Serve" two months ago in St. Catharines. I found the presentation a heart-warming and educational experience. I learned again to appreciate the bickering but committed denomination, the Christian Reformed Church, which some of us call our own.

I was joking around with author Schaap before the production about his cast's hectic schedule, about them sometimes not knowing whether they were coming or going, to the point that they might ask themselves: "Where am I?" or "Who am I?" Sometimes that question can be a profound one, and sometimes not, we laughingly agreed.

Of course, the question of "Who am I?" or "Who are we?" was very much at the heart of "Our Family Album." The dramatic reading focused much on the Calvinist propensity to proclaim the sovereignty of God, but it put special emphasis on the corollary of that confession: that we must seek to do God's will in every area of life.

Brand-name Christians?

The question of what it means to be Reformed is often asked. There is a general feeling setting in that we don't know anymore *what* it means. Or it is said that

whatever we come up with in answer to that question can be claimed by other traditions. The sovereignty of God? You don't have to be a Calvinist to profess that. Seeking to integrate faith into all parts of life? More and more evangelicals are professing that today. To be Reformed is no longer seen as much of a distinctive.

Besides, it is argued, it is better to try to be biblical than to try to be Reformed. I like that position. In fact, I would say that if it isn't biblical it shouldn't be Reformed, or if some part of being Reformed is not being biblical, it needs to be reformed.

Mass-produced religion

Yet I do think there is value in trying to uphold one's identity (whether Reformed or some other Christian tradition). Identity is very necessary, especially at a time when pluralistic forces seek the removal of identity. It is important at a time when people are urged to buy mass-produced food and religion. Group identity is as important as personal and family identity. It helps us to stand up against false currents of thought and lifestyle.

Saying that all we need to do is be biblical sounds terribly pious and impressive, but it is also terribly naive and foolish. It makes us vulnerable to others who also claim to be pious and biblical but have a hidden agenda or hidden tradition out of which they work. It's better to declare yourself, work with the tools you have learned to understand, and be open to learning from others who work out of other traditions.

The fabric of tradition

So what does it mean to be Reformed for me? First of all, I don't think it's something I care to sum up in one sentence. It's a conglomerate of things. It's a mindset, an inherited way of doing things, a tradition or a culture.

It includes the *Heidelberg Catechism*, Reformed thinkers like Bavinck and Kuyper, acts of synods, Christian schools, Christian organizations, a belief that we are called to bring every thought into captivity to Christ, a high view of Scripture, a high view of creation as revelation, a strong belief in the sovereignty of God, an equally strong emphasis on personal responsi-

bility, a tradition of social concern, a tradition of robust piety, a conviction that structures can be for good or evil and need to be analyzed, a confidence that a cultural witness is important and is not dependent on pragmatic success, and a focus on the Kingdom of Heaven, which to us is more important than our personal happiness.

Phew! And that is only a beginning.

Being Reformed is not a ticket to heaven, we all know. Nor is being Reformed higher in the scheme of things than, for example, being Anabaptist or Catholic. But it's an important contribution to the whole. And, by gum, if someone has to be Reformed, it may as well be those who grew up in that community, plus whoever else has a disposition for toughing it out in this community of commitment and care.

No need to apologize

After the performance of "Our Family Album," I talked to someone who had come out of the Catholic tradition into the Reformed tradition. I felt a little embarrassed about the way my church had been portrayed. Yes, there had been a lot of faithfulness and love, but how much infighting had the church not been witness to? But before I could even utter some form of apology, the woman said to me: "You must be proud of your church. What a wonderful account!" I swallowed a few times. Had she seen the same play I had? Apparently, yes. And she had not been turned off by the portrayal. She had felt the underlying strength of an unsophisticated bunch of Reformed believers.

The main effect of the play was that of healing. Healing is something that overly critical people can, and do, hinder. I think we are sometimes too hard on ourselves. But what the play taught me again is that being Reformed is not so bad if you keep in mind that it's a mandate, not so much a label. Being Reformed means you never arrive, because there is always room for improvement, always a time to change, to rework, to rethink, to repent — to *reform*.

Being Reformed means you never know what you will look like 10 years from now, because God's Spirit is active in the world and God's Word is like yeast. And the Kingdom is a rolling stone. **BW**

Christian Courier

Formerly known as Calvinist Contact
Founded in 1945

An independent biweekly that seeks to:

- report on significant events in the Christian community and the world;
- express opinions infused by Scripture and rooted in a Reformed perspective;
- provide contact for the Christian community.

CHRISTIAN COURIER STAFF

Editor: Bert Witvoet cceditor@aol.com
Managing Editor: Marian Van Til ccmeditor@aol.com
Promotions & Marketing Director: Diane Klein
ccadpromo@aol.com
Reporter, Layout: Alan Doerksen ccjournal@aol.com
Circulation Manager: Grace Bowman ccsubscrip@aol.com
Receptionist/Bookkeeper: Marsha Emke ccadpromo@aol.com

REGIONAL REPORTERS

Jeff Hoogendoorn, Victoria; Jacky Naayer, Abbotsford, B.C.;
Gordon Legge, Calgary; Jessie Schut, Edmonton;
Valerie Walker, Halifax; Robert VanderVennen, Toronto

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Harry der Nederlanden, Doug Roorda, Wendy Saunders,
Erick Schuringa, Nelly Westerhoff.

The publication of comments, opinions or advertising does not imply agreement or endorsement by *Christian Courier* or the publisher. Please contact the managing editor if you cannot afford the subscription price but want to receive *Christian Courier*.

Christian Courier

4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON, L2W 1A1

Tel: (905) 682-8311; 1-800-969-4838

Fax: (905) 682-8313;

E-mail: cceditor@aol.com

Cold comfort at secular funerals

Many people during the greater part of their lifetimes don't bother too much to connect with God. We Christians sometimes assume that many of these "autonomous" creatures resort to religion when the time comes to shuffle off this mortal coil. That assumption may have to be re-examined, however, in the light of what the survivors deem appropriate for funeral services. It appears that popular tunes are replacing sacred ones at many funerals.

The top traditional tunes at funerals are: 1. "Abide with Me"; 2. "The Old Rugged Cross"; 3. "The Day Thou Gavest"; 4. "All Things Bright and Beautiful"; 5. "Ave Maria"; 6. "Nessun Dorma"; 7. "The Lord Is My Shepherd"; 8. "The 23rd Psalm"; 9. "I Walk With God"; 10. "Eternal Father."

But today, the top 10 pop songs, increasingly popular at funerals in Britain, at least, are: 1. "My Heart Will Go On,"

Celine Dion; 2. "Candle in the Wind," Elton John; 3. "Wind Beneath My Wings," Bette Midler; 4. "Search for the Hero," M-People; 5. "My Way," Frank Sinatra; 6. "You'll Never Walk Alone," Gerry and the Pacemakers; 7. "Release Me," Engelbert Humperdinck; 8. "Memory," Elaine Page; 9. "Strangers In the Night," Frank Sinatra; 10. "Bright Eyes," Art Garfunkel.

Interesting how secular mourners rely on pop artists to express their grief. All of it is, of course, canned music. No true individualist dare join others in singing like a congregation. Christian mourners, on the other hand, need no fancy singers to express their sorrow and hope. The comfort comes from their own lungs and hearts as they, like a true community, express a hope that goes beyond who they are. The Lord, not Frank Sinatra, is their shepherd. **BW**

Letters

Christian schools are not behind the times

Your February 22 Education Issue is thought-provoking. Just a few remarks from one who can be blamed for some of the faults of our Christian school system, having been involved from its beginning in Ontario.

In those years, board members and teachers had not yet found a proper understanding of working together, and perhaps after all those serious committee meetings held since to correct the situation it is still not generally understood that there must be open and fair communication, in love, for true Christian education.

It's a learning process. And from my more distant observation, our overall system is lately doing just fine. We have better trained staff and more experienced board members, with guidelines and rules of conduct for disputes in place or in progress.

We (Calvinists) are critical people, and are not easily convinced about the abilities of our professionals. Yet, notwithstanding our faults, the Lord has greatly blessed our schools. They are growing in stature and enrollment, far above expectation. Thanks, Lord!

Children know enough about evil

Now as to our schools being behind the times, as Mr. Bill Van Dyk seems to suggest in a lengthy article about the novels taught (or not taught), I wonder who is frozen in time? To suggest, in this day and age, that children have to read up-to-date books to learn the state of affairs in human life, seems to be naive, what with newspapers, radio, TV and Internet surfing.

What imaginary picture of evil can a writer explain better in a book than what we see from day to day and hour to hour — scandal in high places, the love songs of the unfaithful repeated on radio again and again, the divorce statistics, murdering of the unborn for "medical reasons"? While we're still living in the century of Stalin and Hitler, do we need secular books in order to have our grandchildren understand modern life?

Rather, we must understand the reality of the Bible and of history to know that there is nothing new under the sun. All these evils and more were here before now. Those schools and educators who stick to our principles are the most up-to-date. Teach our grandchildren that life is religion, and that Christ says you are his.

Dirk Brinkman
Meadow Creek, B.C.

Uniting conservatives?

The argument seems unassailable. A divided opposition will keep the Liberals in power. The United Alternative Conference, that met in Ottawa, attempted a realignment of Canadian politics. It aimed to stop the Liberals from winning elections by default.

But is the argument unassailable? The unstated premise is that, given our voting system, a divided opposition has no hope of unseating the Liberals. But if so, there are two solutions. Preston Manning's united alternative is only one solution. The other is to change the voting system. The electoral system penalizes vote splitting and gives 100 per cent of power to a party supported by 38 per cent of the voters. Change that and there is no need for a united alternative.

Manning, after leading the charge, now thinks it is naughty that some voters are

Reform and others Conservative; he wants to blend them. If successful, chances are the product will be indistinguishable from the current Liberals. So what has been achieved?

A better approach would ask how voters of all stripes can vote their principles and beliefs without wasting their vote due to a vote split. What needs changing is not people's voting preferences, but the way those preferences are counted.

There is no lack of alternatives. Alternatives range from a slight adjustment of our present system to full proportional representation, or to the system recently proposed for England.

Designating 15 to 20 per cent of all seats as "at large," and allocating those to correct the inequalities would do what the united alternative aims to do. It would prevent both the Liberals from winning against a divided opposition, and any party from having 100 per cent of the power on less than 50 per cent of the vote.

Nick Loenen
Co-founder of Fair Voting, BC,
Richmond, B.C.

'Presentism' is folly

Ahhh! Always interesting to hear a rant by a frustrated Baby Boomer! Bill Van Dyk's latest article ("The Literature of Anachronism," CC, Feb. 22) certainly fits the bill (if you'll pardon the pun)!

"What?" he proclaims in shocked disbelief, "Could there be people in our Christian schools so misguided that they might not think the 'Activist Generation's' view of things is not essential to properly understanding the world? What benighted souls!" Yet, surely a lover of books such as Mr. Van Dyk would not suppose that quality novels become "stale-dated."

Good literature reflects themes about the nature of humanity and its struggles and triumphs in this world. Worthwhile comment on those questions can come from those in other times and places. Indeed consideration of how others have faced their challenges (which often turn out to be our challenges, too) can be a most enlightening activity.

Christopher Lasch in *The Culture of*

Narcissism warned against the risks of a prideful disconnection from the past (and the future) and an obsession with the present. While the Baby Boomers may at times forget that the world started before they arrived on the scene (and we hope it might survive their time on it), I take heart in knowing that the issue of racism and the struggle against it can be effectively addressed with *To Kill A Mockingbird* as a starting point. After all, the people reading and leading the reading of books aren't locked into the '50s. They have plenty of opportunity to consider how things have changed.

All that being said, Van Dyk does include some very worthwhile books in his list, ones worthy of study in our schools. But if one is added, another must go. Just, please, don't trade Shakespeare for a chance to read Thomas Pynchon's commentary on the death of 1960s idealism. Yawn.

Tony Kamphuis
Grimsby, Ont.

Fed up with homosexuality talk

Well, this is the first letter to the editor in my life after reading your paper for 48 years. And it is to tell you that I am *so fed up* with all the articles in your paper about homosexuals (especially in the Feb. 8 issue).

You know and I know that homosexuality is an abominable sin and that those who practise it should be placed under discipline. No elder, deacon, minister or any leader or teacher in our church should be allowed to preach or serve in our church.

You know the saying about one rotten apple. We know there is forgiveness, but

only after repentance and change. So in the issues to come please find something worthwhile to print.

I think I speak for 99 per cent of your readers when I say: "Stop it for we are sick of it." There is nothing to debate or to discuss. The Bible is very clear on the subject.

George Versloot
Keswick, Ont.

See page 6 for more letters.

Christian Courier

Member of Canadian Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.

Canada mail: Publications Mail Registration No. 0451. Postage paid at St. Catharines, Ont. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont. L2W 1A1.

U.S. mail: Christian Courier (USPS 518-090). Second-class postage paid at Lewiston, NY. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, Box 110, Lewiston, NY, 14092.

Subscriptions:	Canada	U.S.A.
(effective Jan. 1, 1999)	(G.S.T. incl.)	(G.S.T. free)
one year (26 issues)	\$39.54	\$31.60 (US)
two years (52 issues)	\$75.00	\$60.00 (US)
overseas one year	\$80.00 surface mail	

Advertising deadlines: display advertising: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. (8 business days before publication date); classified advertising: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. (7 business days before publication date). See classified pages for more details. Advertising rate sheets available. (ISSN 1192-3415) Published biweekly on Mondays.

Address all correspondence to: 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont. L2W 1A1, Tel: 905-682-8311 or 1-800-969-4838, or fax: 905-682-8313, e-mail: subscriptions: ccscrip@aol.com, advertising: ccadpromo@aol.com

PRINTED IN CANADA



For a quick Letter to the Editor, send e-mail to: cceditor@aol.com or fax to: (905) 682-8313.

Letter/Sports

Jubilee means God does not like excessive wealth

"Left-wing," "socialism," "free-enterprise" are some of the words mentioned in the "Jubilee" issue of CC, Jan. 25.

When Reformed people speak about Right and Left in political terms it is usually accepted that Right is right or good and Left is wrong or bad. Is Right always good and Left always bad? What was Gandhi? or Martin Luther King?

Free Enterprise is Right, I believe. It makes me think of mergers, take-overs, survival of the fittest. What about the biblical survival of the weakest?

This quote from the front-page story: "When you talk about money, you hit a lot of hot buttons." Isn't "mammon" another word for money often used in the Bible? Can we serve two masters?

About ownership

What about "Jubilee?" I think it is Left. Well, OK, you practise free enterprise for 49 years, which includes buy-outs and take-overs and all, (which is Right) but then you have to start from scratch again. And the weakest are equal to the strongest again.

More seriously, I believe, Jubilee is about ownership, and that contradictory statement "The earth is the Lord's" (Ps. 24). Lord's Day 1 says that even our own body and soul belong to God. Answer 111 of the *Heidelberg Catechism*, on stealing, tells us that one steals if one doesn't share with those in need.

When God's people were liberated from slavery and after 40 years were given pieces of land in Israel they were allowed to use that land, gain more or lose some or all, ever knowing that after 50 years they would receive the original God-given piece back to be stewards all over again.

God discourages excessive wealth

God, who is omniscient, knew that people had different gifts and different short-comings. Some would gain property, others would lose it. But, without judgment, those that lost it would receive it back, and those who with hard work gained more would return it to the former owners; and everyone would be able to start on an equal basis again.

It is quite probable that others will interpret Lev. 25 differently, but as I read it, that is what it seems to say. Obviously, we cannot do it quite that way anymore, but the underlying principle may well be that God would encourage people to understand that excessive ownership (wealth) is wrong. Again, Jubilee is about closing or at least diminishing the gap between the rich and the poor.

In the largely free-enterprise world of today, the richest fifth of the world's people enjoyed 20 times the income of the poorer fifth in 1960. In 1990 they were 60 times wealthier and the spread continues getting larger. This is opposite of Jubilee.

Poverty is simple

Does sin and corruption make poverty complex? I don't think so. The causes of poverty, yes; but poverty itself isn't very complex: it just causes people to die from exposure, and children to grow up stunted both intellectually and physically; or just die. May I be so bold as to say that if we go on discussing the merits of free enterprise and the complexity of the causes of poverty and not do something significant for the poor we may well be labeled as sinful and corrupt.

I know we are doing much for the poor. But we need to discuss

Jubilee in depth to help us understand the far-reaching evils of free enterprise and capitalism: an approach to economics that promotes survival of the fittest rather than survival of the weakest.

We confess to believe in the communion of the saints (the Apostles Creed). Another biblical term for the communion of the saints is "the Body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12). It teaches that if any one part (person) of the body suffers, the whole body suffers. Without a doubt the whole body is suffering.

Yes, there is sin everywhere, also among the poor, but must we not look at the beam in our own eye first? If we make our economic decisions — household, business, vacation or any other decisions — conscious of the fact that the Body of Christ is hurting, then, I believe, we'll be less reluctant to join the Jubilee 2000 effort. And then God will bless us richly.

Clarence Visser
Edmonton, Alta.

Super Bowl fans evangelized at home

(Religion Today) — Evangelistic outreaches took place across North America during the Super Bowl football game Jan. 31. Christians hosted non-Christian friends in their homes to watch the game and to see a video featuring religious testimonies by NFL quarterbacks Mark Brunell, Randall Cunningham and Trent Dilfer.

The video, 10 sports tracts, 10 sports magazines, a poster and a training guide are made available through Sports Outreach America, an evangelistic group.

In the seven years that Sports Outreach has made the kits available, 1.4 million people have attended evangelistic parties and tens of thousands of people have become Christians, the ministry says. Last year's game was broadcast to more than 150 countries and territories and viewed by 800 million households.

After the Buzzer

00:00



Tim Antonides

Turn off and tune in

As far as sports goes, February had the flavor and texture of cold gruel. Nothing interesting was going on. The NHLers were coasting through the middle of the season. The baseball players were thinking about making their way to spring training camp. The football players were sunning themselves on a rock in Florida (accompanied by Pavel Bure). Malaise set in on the sports fan.

Get out of that rocking chair, folks! March Madness is finally here. Arguably the most electrifying, exhilarating sports experience around, March Madness (if you don't already know) is the 64-team NCAA basketball tournament that determines the champions of college basketball.

Although I'm as nationalistic as they come, I can't help but get myself whipped into a frenzy over this American invention. In fact, I'm going to do something outrageous, something horrifyingly unheard of, something downright naughty. I'm going to boycott NBA games for the duration of the NCAA tournament.

Half-baked stuff

I can only imagine your frozen gasps as you stare at these words. Yet, this is a step I must take. Here's why:

I'm already left with a bitter taste from the NBA lockout. Right now, the NBA teams are scrambling to get through the shortened season. It can't even be called a season. The schedule has been crammed with games to try and salvage some sort of legitimacy.

It's not working. The ridiculous "labor" situation that delayed the start of the season made a mockery of the game and jaded a lot of its fans. I don't think I'm holding a grudge or lacking forgiveness here. This isn't a real season and I don't want to waste any more time watching half-baked basketball. That's the bottom line.

I'm also tuning out the NBA because I want to watch some real basketball. The NCAA Championships have more electricity and excitement than the NBA will ever have. These schools get tremendous fan support. What young kid growing up on a farm in Iowa wouldn't get excited about watching the Hawkeyes play basketball for the national title?

The players aren't getting paid millions of bucks to do their job. They've been recruited to play for their school. There's a commitment to sticking it out and giving it everything they have. College players at this level are playing for the honor of themselves and their school, not primarily to earn a pay cheque. Of course, many are playing to impress NBA scouts and make it to the big leagues.

More integrity

I like the work ethic in the NCAA. Pretty much every player is working hard to move the team forward. Greed and sloth (two of the deadly professional basketball sins) are not yet ingrained. There seems to be more of a team idea, and the guys are putting out an honest effort. Fans like that.

Not to say that hard work and dedication don't exist in the NBA. It's just that there's a complacency that can happen when you make \$1 million a year. The feet move a little slower. Looking good becomes more important. Putting on a show is more of a priority. After all, you're in show business.

For what it's worth, I'm turning off the NBA and tuning into March Madness. I like its down-to-earth, grassroots feel. On a deeper level, though, I like watching people throw a ball through a hoop while thousands of other people go nuts.

Tim Antonides throws balls through hoops at Surrey Christian School in Surrey, B.C., where he teaches and coaches Grade 5 students.

RATES TO MARCH 31, 1999

RRSP
Approx. 5.25%

Regular Fund
5.25%

Your funds will be invested in Christian Reformed Church and Christian school building projects in Canada.

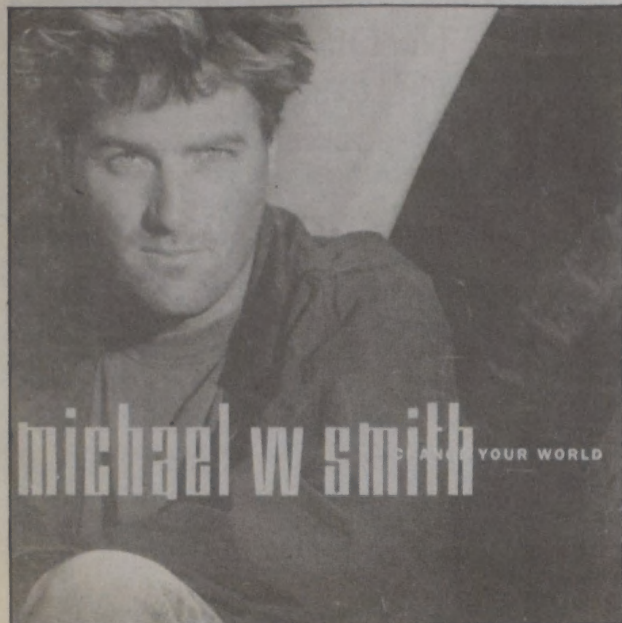


Fax: (416) 465-6367
Call: (416) 461-1207 evenings or write:
Christian Reformed Extension Fund
45 Harriet St., Toronto, ON M4L 2G1

"Fall seven times; stand up eight." (Japanese proverb)

Arts/Media

Dove Awards lyrics rule raises question: what is Christian music?



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — What's Christian about Christian music? When the Gospel Music Association (GMA) wrestled with that question last year the result was a new definition of songs that qualify for its prestigious Dove Awards. Now the debate has spilled over into the rest of the Christian music industry.

Controversy was stirred when 13 of the more than 1,600 Dove Award nominations were disqualified under the new rule. Disqualified songs included "Kiss Me" by Sixpence None the Richer from the current motion picture *She's All That*, and Wes King's "Thought You'd Be Here," inspired by King's struggles with infertility.

Ironic disqualification

The most ironic disqualification was Michael W. Smith's "Love Me Good." In addition to topping the Christian radio charts the song was used to open last year's Dove Awards ceremony, but was disqualified this year for lack of overt Christian content.

Gospel music includes nearly every musical style; the new eligibility rule looks at lyrics. It comes in response to the increasing tendency of contemporary Christian musicians to record songs with no overt spiritual content. Such songs offer increased possibilities for "crossover" to the lucrative mainstream music market, but some also raise questions about what exactly makes a Christian song Christian.

According to the definition the GMA drew up last July, gospel music is "music in any style whose

lyric is substantially based on historically orthodox Christian truth contained in or derived from the Holy Bible; and/or an expression of worship of God or praise for His works; and/or testimony of relationship with God through Christ; and/or obviously prompted and informed by a Christian world view."

A straitjacket

To many artists, the new definition is a straitjacket. Acclaimed songwriter Wayne Kirkpatrick, who wrote the lyrics for "Love Me Good" and co-produced Wes King's album, said the definition is "very disturbing, very puritanical, very oppressive."

The GMA definition of gospel music is already being revised in response to complaints. One issue that must be dealt with is instrumental music. This year albums by Dove host John Tesh and well-known Christian guitarist Phil Keaggy were temporarily disqualified because there were no Christian lyrics to meet the standard.

All the world's our stage

Prominent producer and musician Charlie Peacock was asked to help write the GMA definition of gospel music. "I spent the better part of two days writing and studying and praying about it, and at the end decided that I couldn't be a part of it," he said. "I understood what they were trying to do, but I didn't want to be a part of a definition that narrowed the topics that Christians would sing about from a biblical world and life view."

Peacock has received "more

awards than I ever dreamed of and insists "I think it's completely valid to have an awards show, a time of affirmation. I don't have any axe to grind with that." He also respects the people who created the definition, calling them "intelligent, gifted people" and sees that creating some kind of definition is probably necessary if the Dove Awards are to continue.

Making the grade

The problem with a definition, says Peacock, is that not everybody will understand that it's an administrative convenience for GMA rather than an ultimate judgment on what kind of art Christians should create.

"...What ends up happening is that the consumer base sees that this particular music which falls into the category now sets the standard for what is or isn't Christian music. Everything else is sort of written off as substandard, and really denigrated. We're told that these people are sold out to Jesus, and other people are sold out to the world."

Peacock, whose new book *At the Crossroads* is a piercing analysis of today's Christian music industry, has a simple solution to the Dove Awards problem. "I would do away with them, personally," he said. "They're trying to shape some orthodoxy without actually naming it as such, to make sure that Christians who share the Christian mission are the ones participating in the awards show. I think the way to get rid of that problem is to simply not have the awards show, to not see it as a necessity that we must broadcast a show business variety show."

Known by our fruits

While the Dove Awards are widely seen as Christian music's annual showcase, Peacock isn't sure they serve that goal. "I don't think it's really our community's way of putting its best foot forward to the unbelieving public," he said. "If we wanted to do something like that it would be better for us to pitch in and build a Habitat for Humanity house, then broadcast interviews with families who had been served by Christians."

While the GMA's definition has been criticized for being too narrow, Peacock suggests it may not be narrow enough. "If the definition is small enough, any person with a little research can understand what does and does not make a Christian song and can write one of those and receive a Dove Award for it. But only a Christian, being

A site to behold
Info on interesting and useful websites,
compiled by Marian Van Til



Site spotlights faith-based relief efforts

<http://www.disasternews.net>

(Religion Today) — Jim Skillington's life's work has turned into disaster — literally. The 48-year-old former journalist and sometime Methodist lay preacher heads the Disaster News Network, an Internet site dedicated to highlighting the work of faith-based relief agencies.

Religious groups form the backbone of disaster relief efforts, but their work seldom is mentioned in the mainstream media, Skillington says. For example, when floods in the Ohio Valley, upper Midwest and parts of Manitoba destroyed thousands of homes in 1997, few news stories said anything about the faith communities which poured millions of dollars and thousands of volunteers into cleanup efforts. Skillington told Religion Today.

Churches have provided disaster relief virtually since Europeans settled in North America, a Disaster News story said.

One of the first known interfaith relief efforts occurred in Missouri after an earthquake struck New Madrid in 1811. Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and others in the Mississippi Valley banded together to help the victims. The effort brought together Christian leaders and resulted in increased church membership.

The Disaster News Network seeks to raise the profile of faith-based relief organizations. The site is sponsored by Church World Service, the relief and development arm of the (American) National Council of Churches, and hopes to get readers more involved in volunteerism and giving.

No infrastructure

Skillington recognized the need for the site when he tried to gather weekly news about faith-based relief work for a project. "It was nearly impossible to do because there was no infrastructure for putting out the information."

Skillington began meeting with the heads of relief agencies in 1997 and conducted a study of disaster news coverage. He concluded that a public information program was needed and the CWS agreed, providing a grant to fund the web site.

Skillington works full time updating information, assigning news stories, and editing copy. Five journalists cover the stories nationwide and two part timers help maintain the site. Stories focus on the human aspect of disaster relief work.

"We concentrate on the human element, the stories about people helping people," says Skillington. The site provides an opportunity for people to get involved.

So far, the focus is on the U.S. An interactive map of the United States displays states and regions where relief work is under way. By choosing a particular state, a person can learn the type of disaster, the organizations that are responding, what their needs are, and how to contact them. "We even provide contact names and what days are good to call," Skillington said.

"This is the work that God has called me to do. To tell the story of other people of faith sharing their hands and their minds to help rebuild and reshape lives."

Although his sermons always have emphasized social justice issues, Skillington says he never realized how important helping people in need was to him until he reviewed past sermons. "I was astounded to see how many times I talked about disaster response. God has been preparing me for this all along."

conformed into the image of Jesus, being sanctified, can pour themselves into the Word of God and have the Word of God poured into them, and then think Christianly about every topic under the sun.

But instead of putting the burden of proof on the fruit of a person's life they're putting the burden on the lyrics of a three-and-a-half minute pop song."

Church

CRC membership continues decline

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (URNS) — The membership of the Christian Reformed Church has declined for seven consecutive years, as evidenced by numbers in the denomination's 1999 Yearbook. The church has lost nearly 13 per cent of its 1991 peak membership of 316,415. Membership losses for 1998, as reported in the '99 Yearbook, total 3563; current CRC total membership is 275,466.

Since 1991 the denomination has lost 40,949 members. The CRC Yearbook is issued early in each year, normally in January or February, and reports membership statistics as of August 31 of the preceding year.

Unlike many mainline denominations in which declines have been standard fare for many years, the CRC experienced rapid growth for much of its history and never suffered two consecutive years of decline before the current conservative secessions. Those secessions — over issues such as ordaining women — account for more than half of the loss.

CRC general secretary Dr.

David Engelhard admits, "No organization desires to see its shrinkage, and it can certainly be said that we're not pleased with this course of events. We recognize that there is loss due to disenchantment, but there is also loss due to churches cleaning up and paying more attention to people on their membership rolls."

Part disagreement

Engelhard attributes the membership decline to two major factors: denominational conflicts over the ordination of women; and a five-year-old decision requiring churches to make denominational financial contributions based on the number of professing members rather than families.

"There has been a combination of transition within the 'ministry share' system and the transition and upheaval within the Christian Reformed Church regarding women in office," said Engelhard.

Engelhard noted a recent denominational change allowing churches to declare people "inactive" if they do not attend, contrib-

ute financially, or otherwise participate in church life. "Increasing numbers of churches are declaring people inactive, and lapsing members who haven't been in attendance for some time," said Engelhard. "That will become official next year, and some churches are saying if they are not paying any contributions we will keep them out of our official numbers."

Engelhard adds, "I do think that even though churches were told that the active/inactive categories of membership go into effect next year, I think some of them began unofficially doing a similar thing at least this year."

The total number of Christian Reformed churches has also begun to drop. Even after the total membership of the denomination began to plateau and decline, the number of churches continued to increase, due in large measure to planting of new churches. Recent closure and merger of congregations has ended that trend: the CRC now has 964 churches, down from a high point of 991 churches in 1995.

FAMILY OUTREACH ONTARIO
sponsors its annual
SPRING CONFERENCE



The DIS-EASE
of ALCOHOLISM:
An Integrated Christian
Approach to Recovery
keynote speaker, Dr. R. Grevengoed

March 27, 1999 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (8:30 a.m. coffee)
Faith Christian Reformed Church
Burlington, Ontario

Registration (includes lunch): \$35 per couple,
\$20 per person. Register by March 22
Rick Jongejan, Coordinator
4002 Hixon St.
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B7
Phone: (905) 563-1329
Fax: (905) 563-9673

A FARM AND AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

Since 1980, Meester Insurance Brokers has been providing Southern Ontario farmers with the best policies from a choice of major insurance companies. Meester brokers understand your needs. We provide individual risk evaluation, coverage recommendations, and flexible premium plans and renewal dates. For experience, service and convenience, give us a call. We're ready to answer all of your questions with no obligation.

Farm and Agricultural Insurance

- Cash Crop • Dairy • Greenhouse Program
- Fruit Farms • Hobby Farms
- Hog Operations • Horse Farms • Poultry

Commercial / Business Insurance

- Agri-Commercial • Commercial • Fleet

Personal Insurance

- Auto • Home • Life and Disability

CALL THE
SPECIALISTS



Village Square Mall
Highway # 20, P.O. Box 299
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

Tel. (905) 957-2333

1-800-465-8256

Fax. (905) 957-2599

E-mail: info@meesterinsurance.com

www.meesterinsurance.com



Noted British theologian to speak at Redeemer College

Marian Van Til, with files from Mark Van Beveren

ANCASTER, Ont. — Noted British theologian, author, speaker and Church of England priest Dr. John Stott will speak at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont., on March 22 as part of an annual Christian Reformed minister's conference. Stott will address "Foundations for Christian

Thinking" to both conference participants and any members of the public who wish to attend. The lecture begins at 10 a.m. in the college chapel.

In inviting the public to hear what Stott has to say, Redeemer president Dr. Justin Cooper noted that "John Stott is a prolific author and a much respected speaker and we count ourselves fortunate to

have a person with his credentials joining us. Redeemer College is pleased to open Dr. Stott's morning address to area church leaders and laity."

Stott's visit to Ontario will include engagements in Oakville, Guelph and Burlington.



Dr. John Stott

40 YEARS AS CHURCH TREASURER

In January 1959, the then First Christian Reformed Church of Woodstock, ON, needed a new treasurer. A young man by the name of Mans Klingenberg was willing to take on this position.

As the years passed by, Mans continued to be the treasurer. Then in October 1977, First Church became two churches, namely Maranatha and Covenant. Mans joined Covenant Church and was duly appointed treasurer of this new congregation.

Through all these years, Mans has done a commendable job. If critical questions were asked at a congregational meeting, he always knew how to answer them in a humorous way.

January 1999 marks the 40th anniversary for Mans as church treasurer. He was treasurer of the mother church (now Maranatha) for 18 years and 9 months, and of the daughter church (Covenant) for 21 years and 3 months.

Congratulations, Mans, for a job well done over the past 40 years, and the way it looks to me, still counting!

Klaas Visbeek
On behalf of Covenant Church
Woodstock, Ontario



Mans Klingenberg is "still counting!" after forty years!

Stott was formerly a chaplain to the Queen and now maintains an active preaching and speaking schedule worldwide. One of his interests in recent years has been to aid clergy in emerging nations in acquiring books for their libraries, which Stott does through the Langham Trust. It is the Ontario chapter of the Langham Trust which is helping to sponsor Stott's visit to Canada.

Palau spurs first public evangelism to Turkey in modern times



The waterfront of Istanbul, Turkey's largest city.

ISTANBUL, Turkey (Religion Today) — Luis Palau preached to 1,500 people in Istanbul, Turkey, Feb. 26-27. It was the first public gospel proclamation attempted by Turkey's tiny evangelical church.

About 80 people made commitments to become Christians during two evening services at Gedikpasa Armenian Protestant Church, the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association (LPEA) said. The Argentina-born American evangelist also addressed a luncheon for 125 business and community leaders.

Local Christians were astounded at the number of people who publicly spoke about their desire to become Christians. "They were shocked and elated, and the numbers, to them, were amazing," Palau said.

Services were videotaped for distribution to churches throughout the country. "There have been some private showings of the Jesus film, but for a larger group to hear the gospel just doesn't happen in this country," a local missionary said. The mission is the first in a series of cultural and historical events that the Turkish government is allowing Christians to hold in a year-long celebration of the millennium.

A phony bomb threat before the Saturday night service forced the temporary evacuation of the church. Local officials, citing security concerns, forced leaders to hold the services at the church instead of the public theatre they had arranged.

Upcoming elections and international unrest caused by Turkey's capture of Kurd rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan reportedly caused the concerns. The situation

also led government leaders to cancel a private meeting with Palau.

Harvest time

The mission was an important event for Turkish Christians.

"This has been a learning experience for the believers. Now they know how to do a public evangelism event," Palau said. Members of the LPEA taught Christians how to evangelize their friends, publicly share their faith, and pray for the salvation of others.

Many Christians asked their friends to come to the event, a bold step in the mostly Muslim society.

"The time has come for mass evangelism in Turkey," Palau said.

He met with 70 pastors, missionaries and other evangelical leaders to discuss the future of the church in Turkey. Thousands of New Testaments have been given away in the country and gospel radio programs are reaching many. "There has been seed-sowing... now maybe harvest time has come," he said. There are 12 evangelical churches in Istanbul and fewer than 1,500 evangelical believers in the country.

Relating well to Latin Americans

Turkey is 99 per cent Muslim, and Christians have been persecuted. The country has a saying, "To be Turkish is to be Muslim," but most Turks are nominal Muslims with secular dreams and goals, Palau said. He compared Turkey to his boyhood home of Argentina, "where there were a lot of religious people who said they were Christians but in fact were very secular."

Life is religion

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2, NIV)

These verses begin the third section of the book of Romans. The first eight chapters had given a fairly systematic exposition of the gospel, the next three had dealt with the agonizing issue of the religious position of Paul's fellow Jews who had rejected Christ, and the final five chapters, which these verses introduce, talk about the practical application of everything that Paul had said before. Paul's remarkable words about being living sacrifices is like a bold headline over this concluding section of the book: our entire lives must be a single act of worship in response to the mercies of God.

The 'spiritualization of the cult'

What comes through clearly in these words is a theme which we find throughout the New Testament — a theme scholars sometimes call "the spiritualization of the cult," although I find that term rather obscure and misleading.

What is meant by it is this: everything having to do with the "cult," that is, the pattern of worship as it was organized around priests, temple and sacrifice in the Old Testament, is "spiritualized" in the sense that it takes on a new and broader significance.

The priesthood is no longer reserved for a special class of men but applies to the whole people of God, both male and female. The temple is no longer a building of bricks but the living people of God, both individually and collectively. Incense is now the prayers of the people; liturgy is as wide as life itself; holiness must permeate everything.

And sacrifice, the central reality of the Old Testament cult, now refers to Christ as the Lamb of God, as well as the entire life of believers, including all their actions in word (think of "the sacrifice of praise") and deed. In short, the categories of the cult are transposed to the entirety of life. All of life is religion.

The verses we have quoted are a particularly clear example of this pervasive New Testament theme. Now, in the new covenant, it is not dead animals that are offered to God, but living men and

Chapter & Verse



Wayne Brouwer
Andrew Kuyvenhoven
Laura Smit
● Al Wolters

women. It is even clearer in the Greek than in the English translation that Paul is carrying through this sacrifice image throughout this passage; the word twice translated as "pleasing," as well as the word rendered "perfect," were terms that were regularly used to describe a sacrificial animal that was fit to be offered to the Lord. The Old Testament law stipulated that nothing maimed or dysfunctional or flawed could qualify as a right sacrifice.

The terms used to describe the required wholeness are now used by Paul to describe all of human life as it is sanctified by the Spirit of holiness. And that sanctification meant a metamorphosis (the Greek word for "be transformed" here is *metamorphousthe*) of human life so that it no longer conformed to the standards of this world, so that it brought about a renewal or renovation (Paul here coins the Greek word *anakainosis*) of the mind.

Father and Son

Paul's words at the beginning of Romans 12 were one of the favorite texts of my father, Syrt Wolters, who died on January 29, 1999, at the age of 87. It did not surprise me that this passage was the first of two texts which my father asked to be read at the memorial service that was held after his interment in Victoria, B.C., a week after his death.

The idea that all of life is religion, that it means a radical transformation in lifestyle and thinking, and a refusal to conform to the patterns of this world was the passionate conviction of his life.

By a strange coincidence, I became a columnist in *Christian Courier* (then still known as *Calvinist Contact*) in the same year that my father discontinued his own column in this publication. I like to think that this can be interpreted as a symbol of the fact that there is a continuity between my father's writings and ideals and my own.

Probably the most important thing that my father taught me is that life is religion, that all of life is called to be a living sacrifice. I thank God that he gave me this father.

Al Wolters teaches Bible and Greek at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario. He recently inherited several pairs of his father's shoes.

Turks "relate well with Latin Americans," Palau said. They are similar in their zest for life and friendly, outgoing attitudes, he said. Some Turks see themselves as cousins to Latin Americans because they have many similarities, including climate, skin color, and socio-economic status, said Jason Butler, director of a missions organization that mobilized Brazilians for Turkey.

An American or European missionary may be accepted by Turks,

but they may not identify with him as they would with someone from Latin America, Butler told Religion Today.

Brazilian organizations seek to take the gospel to Turkey. Brazil's church has grown phenomenally in the past 20 years and is now sending missionaries to other countries, Butler said. His ministry seeks to enhance ministry vision in the Brazilian church, with an emphasis on Turkey. "We want them to get a vision to go anywhere, but if they

join with us, they'll go to Turkey."

The ministry is making a fact-finding trip to Turkey this year. Brazilian pastors, humanitarian workers and potential missionaries will visit to identify various needs that Brazilians can meet. The ministry is currently implementing a strategy to involve Brazilian Christians in reaching Turkey without ever leaving Brazil. Another plan includes using Brazilian talent and passion for sports as a door for ministry to Turkey.

Y2K in the Heavens

Margaret Brouillette

"Hey, Gabe, do you want to come here for a minute?" It was Michael, and he sounded worried.

"Sure, Mike, what's up?" asked the ever-optimistic angel, Gabriel.

"It's this technology thing. I think it could be the end of us, or at least, of them. I mean, have you heard about Y2K? The infrastructures of major cities and even countries could shut down at midnight, December 31, 1999. Data-bases will be erased, files will be lost, the power will go out..."

"Mike, Mike. Get a grip!" said Gabe. "You know the Master has everything under control. Nothing is ever a surprise to him. Just because he doesn't always let us in on all his plans doesn't mean he doesn't have any. He's pulled his children through some tight ones before. I'm sure he's thought this one out, too."

"It's just that everything down there works on computers now. I think I liked the good old days better. Modern life makes me nervous," answered Mike.

"What do you mean, you liked the old ways better? This technology is a blast!" Gabriel, who had been sitting, stood to talk as his memory took him back in time and his imagination carried him away.

Virtual ladder

"What if," he continued, grinning, "we could have staged that Jacob's ladder episode with a little



"I hope the Master plans to use this stuff for his re-entry. You know, the call of the trumpet in surround sound..."

virtual reality? We could have just worked out some cool little PC presentation and sent it by e-mail. That's how they do it today, and it saves a lot of time and hassle. And nobody gets dirty.

"Or what if the Master had

written the Ten Commandments onto a CD instead of two stones? You've got to admit, it would have been a lot easier to get down the mountain! Mike, don't you get it? Information technology (IT for the initiated) has a lot of

heavenly possibilities."

Even Michael was beginning to see the point. "I guess you're right about one thing. The Internet has got people doing devotions. Ever since the Master got on line, they can listen to Christian radio, read their thought for the day and look up Bible verses, all on the computer. I suppose they must be leading holier lives..."

Hardly listening, Gabriel continued his verbal replay of past performances. "Remember that once in a lifetime choir that we put together — the time, the rehearsals, the work? And then we staged our only performance for a couple of poor shepherds and a few dozen sheep on some forgotten hillside. Now just imagine digital engineering and satellites and television. That show could be heard live around the world today." Gabriel was becoming more and more excited about the possibilities as he talked.

Michael, in the meantime, was mentally exploring the advantages of "drawing nigh" in cyberspace. But there was still something that didn't seem quite right...

Global tracking

Gabriel continued to elaborate the virtues of computerized living... "I hope the Master plans to use this stuff for his re-entry. You know, the call of the trumpet in surround sound, and some sort of global positioning system to locate the exact spot where Jesus will stand on the Mount of Olives. If we could only program Armageddon to play out like a video game. The good guys and the bad guys would have their joysticks and then..."

Michael was getting a little tired of this. "My good friend, Gabriel. Weren't you the one who said the Master has everything under control? I think we should know by now that the future is his. And it doesn't take an information specialist to realize that those prophecies about the end are coming true."

"Good point, Mikey boy. Let me show you something I was working on just the other day here on my little laptop computer. These are handy things. Anyway, I have this chart here with all the biblical predictions about the Master's return to earth, and every time another one is fulfilled, it lights up in red and the date and time are noted. There's a lot of red on this file now. And I have graphs and statistics about the increase in earthquakes and famines and wars, as well as a tally of all the tribes



"Or what if the Master had written the Ten Commandments onto a CD instead of two stones? You've got to admit, it would have been a lot easier to get down the mountain!"

and nations who have heard the good news of the Master's plan.

"I used to try to keep track of sparrows falling and the number of hairs on people's heads and all that, but some of those humans lose hair faster than the click of a mouse. Now I've decided to leave that detail to the Master, and I'm concentrating on the important stuff."

"You're not worried about Y2K? What if you lose all your statistics and charts? What if your technological re-entry plans get foiled? What if... what if the Master goes off-line?" fretted Michael, horrified at the possibility of men and women losing their link with heaven.

A final fret

Gabriel stood face to face with his companion and looked him in the eye reassuringly. "It will be okay. Believe me, it will be okay."

And Michael, who wanted to believe it, smiled at the good will and optimism of his friend. But he was still concerned. "Gabriel, just one more thing," he added cautiously. "About this Y2K bug shutting down computer systems and erasing files — well, it could be rather disastrous. Just in case, could we, I mean have you thought of... you know, sometime during the year..."

Gabriel was becoming exasperated, albeit angelically so. "Say it, Mike. Just spit it out," he entreated his friend.

So Michael, who wasn't used to telling the archangel Gabriel what to do, finally blurted it out: "It's about the Lamb's Book of Life. I do hope the Master still has his written copy."

Margaret Brouillette is a mother, a part-time teacher and a published writer who lives in Saint Luc, Que.

TIME FOR NEW FURNITURE?

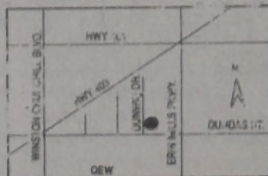
Come and see our beautiful showroom with the European flair!

SCHRÖDER
FURNITURE

... for that special item!



Our "coil" spring furniture has all the support and comfort you need.



Mississauga, Dundas St. — 2 Blocks W. of Erin Mills Parkway (905) 828-9511

Time management

To the last syllable of recorded time

This issue deals with the theme "Time Management." It's a strange term to use by creatures who are bound by time and place. It's probably a term that reflects our Western and modern time as opposed to earlier or non-Western time. Does a shepherd in the fields of Romania think he has to manage time? What is it about us that makes us think we have to account for every minute of our day?

"Redeem the time," we are told by God's Word. Does that mean we have to order time, slot it into our daily agendas, disturb it with beepers and alarms? "Oh, thou good and faithful servant, I have set you over 24 hours a day and you multiplied it into 72 hours?" Enough already. Let the next few pages make you aware that there is more to life than leaving footprints on the sands of time.

Editor

The wisdom of God's time

Erick Schuringa

"There is a time for everything...[God] has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecc. 3:1a,11a).

"There is a time for everything," but that does not mean there is enough time for everything. We live with what seem like limitless opportunities for the use of our time. Yet the number of opportunities is growing beyond what we have time for. New games, new ads for new products, new exotic experiences, new travel destinations, new investment opportunities, new magazines and new websites are brought to our attention daily. Not to mention new books, studies, Bible versions, ministry opportunities and committee commitments.

Most of our lives are living testimony to the fact that there is not enough time for everything. I am busy. You are busy. Everyone is busy. In fact, many of us wear that badge with pride. Our busyness shows that we are needed in this world.

Children are busy - busier than I remember being. So are young people. Working adults are even busier. And retired people are busy too. Maybe that is why we call it re-tired - after getting tired a first time living out a vocation, retirement is a time to get tired again with a whole new set of activities.

So who has time to read an entire meditation? If we're lucky, the editor will put the theme statement in bold and we can get away with reading only that line.

In their proper time

The Teacher of Ecclesiastes does not call us to try to find more

time (he realizes we each get days of the same length). Neither does he give us tips on how to cram more into those hours with a list of "habits for the successful." Instead, he calls us to accept that things have their proper time. **Things are beautiful when they come in season** (You can stop reading now - Editor).

Snow in July is disastrous for a camping trip, but snow in January makes for great skiing. Pregnancy for a family who were expecting to be expecting is a cause for joy; pregnancy causes grief for an unwed teenager. A humorous jab is in good taste in an intimate gathering of friends, but it is out of place on a solemn public occasion.

The Teacher considers happiness to be found in being satisfied in what comes our way. It is about enjoying events in their God-given place and in healthy proportion.

I seldom watch weather news on television, but when I do it is

clear that sun and warm are considered good and all forms of precipitation are inherently evil. Of course, the weather is not spoken of in moral terms (nor is anything else), but the weather expert is surprisingly unaware that we need all types of weather in a timely way. Warm dry sunshine is not "beautiful weather" if you are trying to grow a crop in a drought.

We may desire what feels good to us all the time, but wisdom teaches us that a balanced life includes participation in some things we do not enjoy. The Teacher of Ecclesiastes simply tells it like it is: there is a time for everything and everything is beautiful in its time.

A time to die

As much as we try to dictate what happens and when, we find ourselves receiving the gift of time and the events and opportunities that come our way in time. The

challenge is to see that God gives us something good in every time and season of life.

Ecclesiastes pairs up such opposites as "a time to be born and a time to die." We naturally prefer births to deaths, but we also can sense that, when a person has lived a full life, death can be timely as a release from this life into eternity.

The wise Teacher calls us to step back (an important activity in any busy schedule) and reflect on how, in any and all events, God can and will afford us a chance to grow. There is a time for everything, and it is God's time given to us.

The biblical picture of time is that every event is something which God can use for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28).

In the season of Lent we follow

Christ to the cross — a time to die. As we accept this singularly horrible event as a timely conquering of sin, it becomes beautiful in its own time. There is irony in the fact that, in the name of peace, we "lift high the cross," which is an instrument of torture.

But in God's time, the crucifixion and death of Good Friday is followed by the resurrection of Easter — a time to be born again. By faith we can trust that the God who raised Jesus from the dead can make everything beautiful in its time.

Erick Schuringa is pastor of Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Waterdown, Ont., and a member of Christian Courier's editorial advisory committee who has learned that there is a time to suggest ideas for someone else's meditation, and a time to be asked to write the meditation yourself.



An ancient clock in the Old City Square in Prague, the Czech Republic

van der Woerd
LAW OFFICE

David A. van der Woerd B.A., LL.B.

In Association With Ross & McBride

Commerce Place 1 King St. W., 10th Floor, P.O. Box 907, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3P6
Tel: (905) 577-6216 Fax: (905) 526-0732



CHRISTIAN
COUNSELLING SERVICES
2300 Yonge St., Suite 902,
Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4
(416) 489-3350

- Marriage & family counselling
- Individual & group therapy
- Vocational assessments
- Seminars & workshops
- Conflict mediation to business
- Accredited AAMFT supervision for marriage and family therapists
- CAPE supervision

Time management

Making time matter

Sharon Payton

Overwork, busyness, stress, information overload — our age is a time of doing more with less, a time of being lean and mean. Our business days are made up of voice mail, faxes and e-mails. Our minds and our lives are in overdrive.

"More than a million self-employed Canadians now work where they live. They have escaped the long commute but not the long hours" (*Globe and Mail*, Sept. 10, 1998). It might almost be comforting if we could say with Calvin (not John Calvin — but Calvin of Calvin & Hobbes), "God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of tasks. Right now I'm so far behind I will never die."

In the midst of this whirlwind, we know that we need to find balance in life, to manage the time we are given and to make time to smell the roses. But what do we mean by "time management"? Is it finding a way to get it all done? Or does it mean looking at our priorities?

We are finite

In the book *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives*, Dr. Richard A. Swenson speaks to that problem when he writes, "No one in the history of humankind has ever had to live with the stressors we have acting upon us today. They are unprecedented. Where should we draw the line? What boundaries should we establish? We are not infinite. The day does not have more than 24 hours. We do not have an inexhaustible source of human energy. It is God the Creator who made limits, and it is the same God who placed them within us for our protection. We exceed them at our peril" (pp. 62, 76, 77).



Sharon Payton



MARK F. WITVIT

We are hearing more and more talk today about "getting your life back." The problem is, we don't know exactly when we lost our lives or how.

Was it when the company threatened to shut down? When we were told to tighten our belts? To push expenses down? Was it during the hiring freeze, when those who left were not replaced and the work was simply spread out "temporarily" — but "temporarily" became permanent and you now do the job of two people? Did it start with "going in early this week"? Was it when you convinced yourself, "It's bound to slow down sooner or later," but sooner or later never came.

Heavy workload

I know — I have been there. I am married and mother to four adult children ranging in age from 17-26. Our extended family includes aging parents, who live out of town. I work outside the home as a group-benefit analyst with a consulting firm in St. Catharines, Ontario. Since I live in Hamilton, it means I have a one-hour commute to and from work each day, five days a week.

As a senior team member I have responsibility for key accounts, demanding accounts. The workload is heavy, so it's not unusual for me to put in a 45-50 hour work week, beyond the commute.

Last winter I also started a small home business, publishing a

bi-monthly newsletter for the Christian Business and Professional Woman. The goal is to connect workplace women throughout Canada. An integral part of attempting to connect Christian workplace women is to hold semi-annual seminars with keynote speakers — which I organize and plan. It also involves attending networking sessions, trade shows, conferences, etc., to promote the newsletter. In the past year I was appointed to the board of directors of a national women's ministry, which means a number of day-long meetings a year. I'm sure you get the picture.

Personal mission statement

It is essential that I manage my time well or time will manage me. There are days I want to quit, to walk away. There may not be a way out of this — but there is a way through it. I have found a measure of balance in our whirlwind society. This is an approach that might work for you, too.

A number of years ago I decided that I wanted to make a difference — to make sure that my life had a positive impact on those with whom I came in contact. I also realized I could not continue at the pace I had put on myself. It meant getting my priorities clearly defined — setting goals and learning to say No.

God gave us human beings on earth days of a set number of hours. It is up to us to use our time

wisely, and to use it to become all that God wants us to be and do, not necessarily what everyone else wants us to be and do. The saying is true: "People will always ask you to do more than God asks you to do."

I started with a personal mission statement: "I will live each day to become all that God gifted me to be, stretching my strengths with confidence. I will be a loving and supportive spouse and an encouragement to my children, family and friends. I will give of myself to others through ministry, holding true to my beliefs and sharing God's goodness to me. I will continue to grow by learning new things through education and experience. I will hold true to my values and beliefs in business, striving to enrich the lives of those with whom I work."

The key elements are deliberate: first and foremost, my relationship to God; secondly, my relationship to husband, children, family and friends, and third, my calling to ministry and work.

Yet these are still broad categories. Each day, as I set out my schedule for the day's activities, I need to make a conscious effort to be involved in only those areas which help to fulfill my personal mission statement. This involves a number of considerations which may be helpful to you, too, as you consider your priorities.

Personal objectives

1.) Start each day with the Lord of life. Lay your burdens before him and ask him to help you plan your day and guide you in your decisions.

2.) Set priorities, distinguishing the urgent from the important. The priorities must be based on what is of the most value to you. Have you spent time seeking what God wants you to do? At what time do you spend some mutually nourishing time with your spouse?

And are you creating "family memories"? Is there enough flexibility to help with homework and drive kids to the roller rink? Are you taking time for yourself — health, diet, fitness? Are your involvements in Kingdom activities making the best use of your time, skills and gifts? This type of planning and setting priorities needs to occur not just for family but for work and ministry.

3.) Work at the most difficult tasks when you are most productive (if at all possible). I'm a morning person but no one else in my family appreciates this time of day.



Time flies!

from 6:00 a.m. to about 8:30 a.m. Obviously, spending memorable time with my husband or children then would not work well. Yet for me it is the best time to complete a difficult work project (it is also quiet at the office) or writing an editorial for my newsletter.

4.) Allow flexibility in any planning. Remember that things generally take about 30 per cent longer than anticipated. Allow extra time to deal with extraordinary circumstances.

5.) Acknowledge that the "seasons" of life will also help determine our priorities. Are your children all "pre-school" or are you "empty-nesters"?

6.) Keep your perspective. Loosely translated, don't sweat the small stuff. Keep a clear sense of what is truly important.

The balance we strive for in church, work and family needs to extend to us personally. Being a woman of God or a man of God means we need to set aside time to care not just for our spiritual health but also our physical health, through healthy diet, fitness and time for rejuvenation — physical, emotional and spiritual.

In a day characterized by overwork, busyness, stress and information overload, let's step back and identify those priorities that will make a difference to those whom God has placed within our sphere of influence. Once the priorities are established, we can spend our time on the things that will ultimately provide the most value, and say No to everything else.

Sharon Payton lives in Hamilton, Ont., and is a member of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Ancaster. She is a group-benefit analyst with a consulting firm in St. Catharines and is the editor of "Soaring... On Eagles Wings," a newsletter for the Christian Business and Professional Woman. She is married to Dr. James Payton, a historian at Redeemer College.

Time management

Holy calendar! We're 10 days out!

How our ancestors came to divide time

Marian Van Til

From your school days you may recall that figuring out exactly how a calendar marks time has something to do with the twirling of the earth on its axis while it simultaneously prances around the sun.

It may surprise you to know that it wasn't until 1752 (a mere 200 years before I was born), that Britain finally joined the rest of Europe in adopting our present "Gregorian" calendar — at the urging of the Earl of Chesterfield (who seems to have accomplished a few things besides putting his feet up). And the Germans were only about one lifetime ahead of the Brits, having adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1700.

But Italy, Spain, Portugal and Poland were far ahead of Protestant Europe because, on that issue anyway, the Roman Catholic Church was on the cutting edge. Pope Gregory XIII had signed a papal edict in 1582 which no good Catholic country would disobey, it put Catholic Europe's calendar in proper alignment with the sun.

Russia, not being part of Europe, nor Catholic or the Roman persuasion, resisted. And resisted. Until 1918, when the Bolsheviks seized control — by which time 13 days of the year (Feb. 1-13) had to be dropped in order for them to get in line with most of the rest of us.

And then there was China, which didn't get on board until 1949, when Mao strode heavily onto the scene.

The emperor's birth

So far I've explained the name "Gregorian calendar." But what about this alignment with the sun business?

Well, there was a man who lived in Rome in the 6th century. His name was Dionysius Exiguus, a.k.a. Dennis the Little, and he was an abbot and mathematician.

The Eternal City was not much to write home about at that time. On the outskirts, at St. Peter's, Dennis quietly attended to his churchly duties, which apparently left him time to contemplate time.

Having become something of an expert at that, Pope John I asked him, in 525, to calculate the future dates on which Easter would fall. That was easier said than done, given that the Church had insisted just two centuries earlier that Easter should fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

So our friend Denny dutifully

began studying solar and lunar positions. It took him a few years, but he drew up a chart for future Easters, beginning in what we would call 532. Some Romans would have called it 1285 — they counted

ally a bothersome 365.242199 days long, tough to calculate without our modern instruments.

In addition, Earth tends to wobble on its axis, yanked luther and yon by both the moon's orbit and the sun's gravitational clout. That means that the precise length of each year actually varies by a few seconds. Seems minor, but seconds add up.

The moon, intriguing light that she's always been, piqued the interest of the ancients as a source for measuring time. But alas, 12 months of lunar phases (roughly 29.5 days each) add up to only 354 days, 11 days and a few hours short of a solar year.

So if one were to stick to lunar years, the calendar would soon be out of sync with the seasons, and eventually the summer and winter solstices would flip-flop. Even so, lunar calendars died hard.

The Egyptians devised the solar calendar first, as early as the 5th century B.C. Without going into the astronomical details, let's just say they were capable of calculations which led them to conclude that the summer solstice took place some six hours later each year, further leading them to conclude that a year is actually slightly longer than 365 days. And by the time Gregory appeared on the 16th century scene, the calendar then in use needed revising.

The church takes over

Fast-reverse to 47 B.C., when Julius Caesar returned to Rome — as dictator — and, buoyed by his romance with Cleopatra and enlightened by discussions with her about

the Egyptian calendar, he combined Egypt's calendar with his own. By then, the latter was running a substantial 90 days behind the actual year. To make up for it, in one fell swoop he declared the then current year to be 445 days long! Then he decided to fix things for the future by setting subsequent years at 365 days and declaring that every fourth year would have an extra day, to compensate for the extra six hours per year the Egyptians had discovered. (The Egyptians had tried the leap-year system and abandoned it.)

That wasn't exactly the end of the confusion in Rome, but we must leap ahead yet again. When Emperor Constantine became a Christian he officially adopted the Jewish seven-day week and set the worship day on the Roman Saturn's Day. He also designated any number of holy days and festivals. So the imperial calendar became the church's calendar, believed to be divinely ordained by God — though no one could explain why the God of Ages, who invented time, would ordain a calendar that was still faulty by 11 minutes and 14 seconds a year.

Too far ahead of his time

To make a centuries longer story short, we catapult to 1267, when the unusual English friar Roger Bacon had the courage to call the church-blessed calendar "intolerable to all wisdom, the horror of all astronomy, and a laugh-in-stock from the computer's [mathematician's] point of view."

Bacon was way ahead of his time, which rather scared his friends and associates. (Besides being audacious about the calendar, he invented a gunpowder formula, designed a telescope and

predicted things like eyeglasses, airplanes and high-speed engines).

Things seemed to be looking up when Bacon's Pope, Clement, asked him to prepare treatises incorporating his ideas, which he did. But Clement died just as Bacon finished, and eventually the Franciscans, Bacon's own order, threw him in prison because he seemed pretty heretical to them.

It was another 300 years before the church admitted that Bacon was right. By then, the year was out of whack by 10 days, pushing the spring equinox back to March 11 and making all the church holy days fall at the wrong time of year.

Compensation

Now we're full circle: this was when Pope Gregory XIII's edict of Feb. 24, 1582, declared that Europe's calendar would be restored to reflect Earth's proper alignment with the sun.

But it took a little more than a simple declaration. Gregory adopted a "leap-century" rule, that is, three out of four leap years falling at the turn of each century are done away with, and Caesar's average year is shortened to compensate for an 11-minute drift. (That means 2000 would be a leap-year, but not 1700, 1800 and 1900.)

To adjust for those 10 days, Gregory simply got out his black magic marker and obliterated them from the calendar in the fall of 1582 — but not without riots in the streets here and there. Some people (especially the Germans, who even then were into precision) apparently were a tad uneasy about going to bed on the night of Thursday, October 4 and awaking on Friday, October 15. And some of them apparently thought they were owed some back wages.

Well, some people don't react well to change! But the astronomy behind this particular change was solid as an asteroid chunk. Never mind that our atomic clocks can now tell us that the Gregorian calendar runs slow by 26 seconds and change per year. True, that means that we've already been put back three hours since 1582. And eventually it's going to set us back a whole day. But that won't happen until 4909. So don't add it to your list of things to worry about.

Sources used for this article: "Calendar," by David Ewing Duncan, *Smithsonian magazine*, Feb. 1999, World Book Encyclopedia, vols 4, 8.



Pope Gregory XIII

from the founding of their city. Others would have said 248, dated from the first year of the reign of Emperor Diocletian.

In fact, it was this latter fact that inspired Dennis to decide that the calendar which resulted from his Easter chart (and which was actually a revision of one suggested by Julius Caesar) should be dated from the birth of his "emperor," Christ. Said he (in Latin): "[I] preferred to count and denote the years from the Incarnation of our Lord, in order to make the foundation of our hope better known...."

So Dionysius' Easter charts began in what he called "anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi DXXXII" — the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 532 — A.D. 532 for short.

We now know that Dennis got the original Christmas somewhat wrong — thus the anomaly that Jesus was actually born in 5 or 6 Before Christ. (Incidentally, modern secular scholars have mixed B.C. and A.D. They refer to the Common Era [C.E.] and Before [the] Common Era [B.C.E.] Same logic, very different worldview.)

No lunatics, these

Skip ahead to the 16th century for a moment. That's when Gregory, an otherwise lackluster guy, decides that Dennis's calendar needs some serious revising, thus gaining for himself historical immortality (we hope he gained the other sort as well).

The problem was that the solar year — the precise measure of time between recurring seasons — is re-

The names of our months

Rome's original calendar (created by the city's mythological founder, Romulus, in "our" 753 B.C.), consisted of 10 lunar months — from which our calendar still gets the names of the months: March (Martius, for Mars), April (Aprilis, the goddess of love), May (Maurus, for Maia, mother of Mercury), and June (Junius, for Juno, queen of the Roman gods).

Romulus got unimaginative for some of the other months, falling back on mere numbers, our versions of which are September, October, November, December.

About 50 years later, Romulus' successor was said to have added Januarius (for the two-faced Janus, a god who looks forward and backward) and Februarius, after a purification festival.

Time management

Eternity in our hearts?

Diane Klein

Ecclesiastes declares that there's a time for everything. Maybe there is, but I confess that I've had trouble finding it. I've tried. I used to make those handy little "to do" lists. It would reduce the buzzing overwhelmedness I had and make me feel much more in control. Especially when I got to cross an item OFF the list! You may have tried one of those handy little pocket "diary" calendars to mark deadlines and schedule appointments. I never have. They're too masculine; you need a breast pocket to keep them in. And I always suspected that my denomination was against breast pockets for women. (Maybe I'm mistaken about this, because I didn't really stay up-to-date with the current literature. Didn't have time.)

The truth about my later years is that I have become one of those semi-sophisticates who uses a day planner. I've structured for results, I work on goals and I'm bringing efficiency into my life and work. I work in a busy newspaper office, and I get bad headaches if my life gets out of control (stress, you know — so many urgent things). That's what the day planner's for. So — each day I shuffle and re-shuffle priorities, work on my computer while I return phone calls, go through piles of paperwork and shuffle those little pink "While You Were Out" notes — and then whatever isn't done I take home in a briefcase, to work on at home. Hey, this girl's got it together. Thoroughly professional, thoroughly organized.

Usually I don't get that much done in the evening, though. I have a lot of other stuff to do, and I often have a bad headache (stress, you know, too many important things). I know I should exercise more, and take time to plan better meals, and find time to care for my soul, and be more involved in my church, and interact with friends, and make a better contribution to my community....Hey, wait a minute. This is thoroughly insane.

All day long I juggle urgent matters, phone in my ear and daytimer under my arm, until I'm too tired for the important stuff. I have to do something about this. Right now I'm going to set aside time in my day planner to think about this — right after the March 22 issue of Christian Courier finally goes to press!

The Clock Versus the Compass

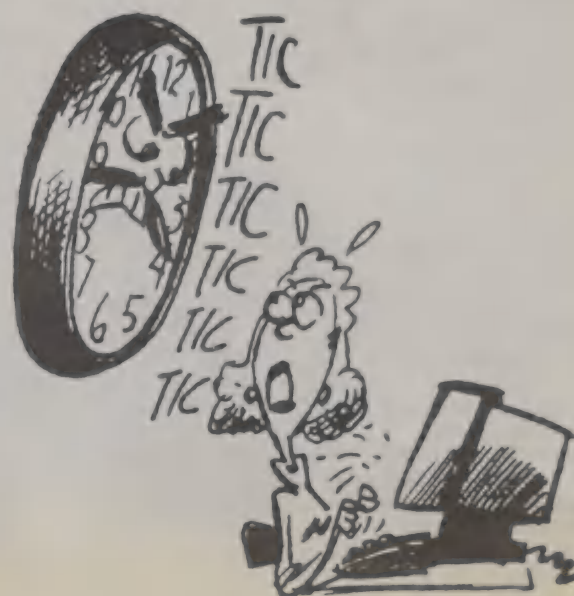
The self-management guru of the '90s, Stephen Covey (you may know his 7 *Habits of Highly Effective People* or *Principle-Centred Leadership*), talks about time management in a third book, titled *First Things First*. Here he claims that individuals cannot, in fact, manage time. That they can manage only themselves. He uses the images of the clock and the compass to help readers understand the difference — and escape the tyranny of the clock in favor of the rediscovery of their compass.

"For many of us," he writes, "there's a gap between the compass and the clock — between what's deeply important to us and the way we spend our time. And this gap is not closed by the traditional 'time management' approach of doing more things faster. In fact, many of us find that increasing our speed only makes things worse."

I think he's right. Things that are really important to me almost never make insistent demands on my time, but they are usually the very things that give

richness and meaning to my life. Conversely, the urgencies in my life are often not matters of importance according to my compass, only to the clock — and usually *someone else's* clock!

Wait! Let me think about this a minute. If I'm giving in to the clock — someone else's or my own — perhaps it's because my own compass isn't giving me strong enough direction. Maybe I need to review the direction my life is taking. Maybe I've been so busy managing my time that I haven't managed my life. I may have to take corrective action! I may have to go on and read the next section: The Urgent vs. The Important.



Urgent vs. Important

Your life is probably like mine — full and complicated. You're torn between conflicting priorities. You know that when you are forced to make choices concerning how you use your time, you are often choosing between what is URGENT and what is IMPORTANT. In *First Things First*, Stephen Covey helps readers get a better handle on the conflict between these two.

For your benefit and mine, I've summarized his discussion on "The Main Thing Is to Make the Main Thing the

considered *urgent*, while in the second column we see activities which are *not urgent*. The first row contains activities which are *important*; below it in the second row are activities which are *not important*. Let's have a look at the four resulting quadrants of activity. Imagine they are the four rooms of your activities, and that you can vary the amount of time you spend in each, depending on your choice.

Quadrant I:
The arena of Productivity

Some of the demands on your time are both important and urgent. For instance, you may have a medical emergency, or your car may break down on your way to an important meeting. Or you may have a deadline coming up, one you can't miss without serious consequences. This is a highly productive arena of your life. You're accomplishing the things that are presenting themselves to you for your attention. Indeed, if you don't spend enough time on these demands, the crises of your life will sink you. That's easy to understand.

But what if you need to spend a lot of your time in Quadrant I? Usually, this means that you haven't spent enough time in Quadrant II. Doing work in Quadrant I is productive, yes, but it's a recipe for stress and burn-out. Christians sometimes feel good about being really busy. That's OK, as long as you know why you're so busy, and realize

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	Quadrant I The Arena of Productivity <i>In this quadrant activities are both important and urgent</i>	Quadrant II The Arena of Quality <i>In this quadrant activities are important but not urgent</i>
NOT IMPORTANT	Quadrant III The Arena of Deception <i>In this quadrant activities are urgent but not important</i>	Quadrant IV The Arena of Waste <i>In this quadrant activities are not urgent and not important</i>

Main Thing." I hope you find it as helpful as I did. It's about activities in your life and how to choose what to do.

Have a look at the grid on this page. In the first column of the matrix are examples of activities which can be

that it's costly to live in Quadrant I: too many *other important things* (the not urgent) are then ignored.

Quadrant II: The arena of Quality

Here we find the activities which bring quality to our lives: faith development, relationship building, true re-creation and health maintenance, values clarification, prevention of future crises (eg., some medical emergencies and car breakdowns, missed deadlines, etc.) This is where quality comes into your life: recognizing what is important to you — in all the "roles" of your life.

There are several reasons why you may want to spend more time here. First of all, as a Christian, this is where your heart is. This is where you are using the compass of God's Word to set the direction of your life. Adhering to that course helps you set other priorities in your life. And it will bring you a peace that time management techniques don't offer. Be-

a little discipline, but over time you can learn. (And I assume you don't have any available time in Quadrant IV to contribute to the cause.)

Quadrant III: The arena of Deception

Here we find all the activities which are urgent *but not* important. These are the things that present themselves, sometimes unexpectedly, sometimes not, and for which you make time. Some things in your life simply have to be done — the work you do at your job, housework, yard work, car maintenance, etc. But you have a pretty clear idea in your head about what is involved, and you usually do what you have to do when you have to do it.

Okay. But often these tasks are riddled with outside impositions: phone calls, unexpected visits, and other such interruptions. If they're important, you're in Quadrant I. If they're not, other people's priorities and expectations may be running your life. Recognizing that this is happening is the first step toward fixing it. Quadrant III feels okay sometimes: it feels like Quadrant I because of the urgency. Recognizing that a little traditional time management could help you out here is the next step. But get out of Quadrant III as soon as you can.

Quadrant IV: Waste

The activities here are neither urgent nor important; they include any kind of escape behavior or mindless activities, anything done just to pass time. Note: real re-creation takes place in Quadrant II, not

here in Quadrant IV, because your health is important, along with your social development and the wise use of your body. If you're spending time here on mindless TV, mindless reading or mindless games, you may be avoiding what's important in your life. There's no quality here, not really any time

management even, time just passes. Be here, if you must, for a short break, and then get on with your life. You've got gifts, talents and energy which want to come to expression in your life.

tell you what they think. Let God's Word remind you that all of your life can be transformed into a song that never ends. And then spend some time singing.

What comes next?

The moral of the story is that in order to really manage time, we have to learn to manage ourselves. The real test of *your* understanding of this lies in what *you* do next as a result of what you've learned. My suggestions?

Do some work on getting to know yourself. Write yourself a personal vision/mission statement. Start keeping a journal in which you explain yourself to yourself. Do some self-reflective exercises — to recognize your spiritual gifts, your hopes for the future, your sorrows and disappointments, your ultimate trusts, your ability to give up control of your life.

Set up a small "self exploration" group with intimate friends. Take a few sessions with a Christian counsellor. See what resources your pastor may have. Talk to your spouse. Let your kids



The rocks in the jar

In First Things First, Stephen Covey recounts this story which he heard from an associate of his: I attended a seminar once where the instructor was lecturing on time. At one point, he said, "Okay, it's time for a quiz." He reached under the table and pulled out a wide-mouth gallon jar. He set it on the table next to a platter with some fist-sized rocks on it. "How many of these rocks do you think we can get in the jar?" he asked.

After we made our guess, he said, "Okay. Let's find out." He set one rock in the jar... then another... then another. I don't remember how many he got in, but he got the jar full. Then he asked, "Is that jar full?"

Everybody looked at the rocks and said, "Yes."

Then he said, "Ahhh." He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar and the gravel went in all the little spaces left by the big rocks. Then he grinned and said once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time we were on to him. "Probably not," we said.

"Good!" he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went in all the little spaces left by the rocks and the gravel. Once more he looked at us and said, "Is the jar full?"

"No!" we all roared.

He said, "Good!" and he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in. He got something like a quart of water in that jar. Then he said, "Well, what's the point?"

Somebody said, "Well, there are gaps, and if you really work at it, you can always fit more into your life."

"No," he said, "that's not the point. The point is this. If you hadn't put these big rocks in first, would you ever have gotten any of them in?"



sides, not doing your "homework" here is going to move some important things into the urgent column.

So spend lots of time in Quadrant II. Don't take time from Quadrant I, though, let it shrink by itself as you focus on Quadrant II. Instead, steal some time from Quadrant III. That might take

Time management

The gift of a lifetime

Jan de Bree

I awake to the meowing of our cat at six o'clock in the morning. I rise up from my bed to open the front door to let him out. This is a ritual that marks the beginning of

of those mysterious boundaries. The clock reminds me that I am approaching an end, my death. And on a larger scale I know that all of creation is approaching an end, the return of Christ, another death followed by a rebirth.

I am a son and I am a father. I am a generation. The ticking clock and the calendar measure my stay on this earth. I organize myself using the divisions of minutes, hours and days. Within these markings is a place for me, that which I do and that which is done to me.

Using time well

Wisdom, in the Book of Proverbs, bids me use my time well. She encourages me to be diligent, to work so I can provide food and shelter for my family and myself. I am to avoid laziness. The reward for hard work is wealth. She warns against greed and directs me to be generous with my riches.

I want to be wise and use my gift of a lifetime well.

During the day there are moments when time feels like a burden. Time appears as the regular and fixed movement of the earth around the sun, as the clouds pushed along by the relentless, prevailing westerly winds or as the inescapable fading of the paint on my car.

I use myself to measure time when I notice my waning strength, my stiff joints and my wrinkled face. On such an occasion I feel the pessimism of the Teacher who writes in Ecclesiastes: "All things are wearisome, more than any one can say" (1:8). I still want to be wise and use my gift of a lifetime well.

Time is inside and outside

God made me a clock when my mother gave birth to me. I am that clock, a biological clock. Because I am a clock, I hurt *myself* when I kill time. I cannot have too much time on my hands because I am a limited quantity of time. Neither can I run short on time because God in his wisdom has given me enough.

Time feels like something outside of me and feels like something that is a part of me. My clock ticks along with millions of others. My clock is small compared to the planets, the stars and their cycles. They have the appearance of being infinite because they are so much larger than I am. Even the Teacher of Ecclesiastes has that impression: "Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever" (1:4).

I disturb my clock when I am bored. Then, I have the gift of a lifetime but choose not to work. Time is a condition needed for me to perform my work. It is as necessary as air and water.

I disturb my clock when I am exhausted. Then, I have the gift of a lifetime but I work overtime, attempting a climb over the boundary of time which I cannot overcome.

For every clock there is a place. For every place there is a time. Everything is timed.

A time to divide

Time management is watching the biological clock. Time management is managing myself. I divide myself into tasks: occupation, family, friends, clubs, hobbies or church, with the earth's rotation around the sun as my standard. Time management is about my



God's good use of time is an indication of his power. He is so powerful he could have created the universe in seven seconds if he had wanted to.

ability to execute work within my time restraints, between morning and night, between sleeping and waking, between birth and death.

Time management has to do with self-control. The goal is to avoid laziness, to avoid focusing on one activity at the expense of another, while bringing other values to bear on my choices, such as generosity, love and care.

When I listen to the creation-evolution debate, I hear a discussion about God's use of time. It has to do with the importance of managing time well, and about God's ability to work quickly. God has to do lots of work in six 24-hour days. He has to be diligent, efficient and has to work in an orderly fashion.

Chapter one of Genesis describes God working down an orderly list of jobs that he completes within six days. God's good use of time is an indication of his power. He is so powerful he could have created the universe in seven seconds if he had wanted to.

Lord of time

God working slowly over millions of years appears as an inefficient use of time, making God a slouch. But another principle enters the discussion here. This principle is that God is not restrained by time. He is the creator of time. For him a day is like a thousand years and the other way around

as well.

With God not tied down to the clock, the creative act can proceed slowly, a kind of work in progress. Here the second chapter of Genesis comes into play. The second creation account does not mention time. This chapter describes a sequence of unnumbered events. God ignoring the restraints of time is also an indication of his power. He is the Lord of time, not its slave.

In the creation-evolution debate we place God in our predicament. We want to work quickly, do lots in the smallest amount of time possible, but we don't want to be a slave to our work and to our clocks. If we feel enslaved, we will lament our busyness and sing, "Take Time To Be Holy."

Our business is to be holy, set apart as an offering for God, who makes us gifts. I am a gift. I am to be a gift. And I have been given a gift. Piety is to cherish the gift of a lifetime.

The earth's time is long. Our time is short. God promises us eternity, a gift of an eternal lifetime, time without end.

Thanks be to God.

Jan de Bree lives in Duncan, Vancouver Island, B.C. His e-mail address is: jdebree@islandnet.com; his web address is: <http://www.islandnet.com/~jdebree/jdebree.htm>

Come
BANK
with us.

Discover the difference

DUCA
CREDIT UNION

Head Office and Main Branch

5290 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5P9

Phone: 416-223-8502 Fax: 416-223-2575

E-mail: duca.info@duca.com Internet: www.duca.com

Willowdale - Toronto - Rexdale - Etobicoke

Scarborough - Brampton - Orangeville

Richmond Hill - Newmarket - Oshawa - Bowmanville

Time management

Top 10 time-saving tips for young mothers

Heidi VanDerSlikke

Long, long ago I was the epitome of the well-organized person. I had complete control of my time, career and abdominal muscles. But that was B.C. — Before Children. And then God sent us twins, neither of whom had an iota of respect for my carefully balanced schedule or my well-ordered universe.

To the mother of young children, "time management" is a myth perpetuated by those who actually have the time to think about such things. Friends, relatives and every other book on the shelf have all kinds of advice for you. What I came to realize in my experience as an at-home mother is that anything you do in addition to raising your children is actually a bonus. And so, I humbly offer my "Top 10 Time-Saving Tips for Mothers." (In the interest of time, there are only nine of them.)

1. Make a list. A lover of lists, I learned that this exercise keeps you focused and helps you remember what needs to be done. My advice is to keep them short.

fun stuff to look forward to. Even if it's not really all that much fun, it looks that way compared to what you're doing now. This is basically the same principle your child employs when he eats the broccoli spears before the chicken nuggets.

3. Keep the little jobs little. Things like laundry, dishes, sorting mail and paying bills are much easier when done in small, regular amounts. It's simpler to find 10 minutes to fold a single load of laundry than to wait for a day to do a mountain of it. Work expands to fill the time allotted, so determine to deal with these tasks expeditiously.

4. Get your rest. This is not a self-indulgent luxury. It is a necessity if you are to function as an efficient and happy human being. Once in awhile go to bed when your kids do. I balked at this advice at first, thinking, "But that's my time to relax!" However, there are times when what you need more than a TV show or a good book is an extended night's sleep.

Think of it as sleeping-in in reverse. Or, insist on regular afternoon naps. Should your children fail to see the beauty of this habit, put them to bed anyway. Get yourself a good set of stereo headphones and a relaxing CD. Then close your eyes and tune out the world for half an hour.

5. Accept your circumstances. When you look in the mirror at those tired eyes and that neglected hair, remember that to your children you are the most beautiful creature on God's green earth. Understand that the bottom of the laundry hamper does still exist. You just won't actually see it again until your children leave for college. And, by the way, those reports of unprovoked dust bunnies attacking humans are greatly exaggerated, so don't worry about it.

6. Learn to say No! As an at-home mother you are considered fair game for any and all good causes in need of volunteers. Remember why you chose to stay at home, and agree to nothing that might over-extend your resources. Our schools and churches thrive on volunteer service, but you can't do everything.

Pick something you can enjoy in terms of time and ability. Establish your personal limits, then resolve to say No to whatever else might come along. (Practise

forming the word with your lips before you answer the phone!)

7. Allow extra time for any outing. "Whatever can go wrong will go wrong." Especially on the way out the door! Going out for groceries with small children in tow requires all of the management skills of a corporate CEO. Fact is, it will take you 17 times longer to get ready than it used to.

This allows time for your children to spit up on your new outfit, test the buoyancy of dog kibbles in the water dish, and/or stuff an entire newspaper into a washing machine while it's running. Think of it as the "contingency factor."

8. Stop and smell the roses. (It's an oldie but a goody!) Feel the sun on your cheek as you take out the trash. Breathe in the scent of your baby's skin after her bath. Enjoy the warmth of a little one on your lap while you read. Take lots of pictures. You'll need them in days to come when you try to figure out where the time has gone.



9. Take time for God. After all, he made time for you. All of the other items in this list are dispensable, but you cannot survive without this one. Talking to God in prayer and reading a part of his Word everyday will not change your circumstances. It will give you the strength to carry on in the long run with a renewed vision for this special calling.

Time and money have a lot in common. They're both resources we usually want more of. Yet even what we think we save is only intended to be spent on something else. Neither has any intrinsic value. How we spend them is what gives them worth. Keep that in mind as you decide how you'll spend the rest of this day.

Heidi VanDerSlikke lives in Harriston, Ont.



including only the "must do's." However, I know a female executive who admits writing down items she's already completed for the simple pleasure of stroking them off!

The danger in making a prioritized list is that it may begin to control you, so you must keep it in perspective. You created the list. You have the power to frame it should you accomplish all its details, or tear it into a thousand pieces should you find it simply overwhelming.

2. Tackle the nasty jobs first. This is an old self-discipline technique. By doing the things you least like first, you still have the

FROM COAST TO COAST

Back to God Hour: English Radio:

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Duncan - CKAY.....	10:00am	1500
Burns Lake - CFLD.....	9:15am	1400
Osoyoos - CJOR.....	8:00am	1490
Penticton - CKOR.....	8:00am	800
Port Alberni - CJAV.....	7:00pm	1240
Prince George - C1RX.....	7:00am	94.3
Princeton - CHOR.....	8:00am	1400
Smithers - CFBV.....	9:15am	1230
Summerland - CHOR.....	8:00am	1450
Vernon - CJIB.....	9:30pm	940

QUEBEC

Montreal - C1QC.....7:30am 600

ALBERTA

Brooks - C1BQ.....	8:00am	1340
Fl. McMurray - C1JK.....	8:30am	1230
High River - CHRB.....	6:30pm	1280
Edmonton - CKER.....	11:00pm	101.9
Westlock - C1OK.....	7:30am	1370

SASKATCHEWAN

Estevan - C1SL.....	8:00am	1280
Weyburn - C1SL.....	8:00am	1190

MANITOBA

Altona - CFAM.....	9:30am	950
Steinbach - CHSM.....	9:30am	1250
Winnipeg - C1JS.....	9:15am	810

ONTARIO

Atikokan - C1AK.....	9:30am	1240
----------------------	--------	------

Chatham - C1CO.....	6:30am	630
Fort Frances - C1OB.....	9:30am	640
Guelph - C1OY.....	8:30am	1460
Hamilton - CHAM.....	7:30am	820
Kapuskasing - C1AP.....	7:00am	580
Kingston - W1KC.....	7:30am	100.7
Newmarket - C1DX.....	9:30am	88.5
Oshawa - C1DO.....	8:00am	1350
Owen Sound - C1OS.....	10:30am	560
Pembroke - CHVR.....	10:00am	96.7
Samia - C1OK.....	7:30am	1070
Stratford - C1CS.....	8:45am	1240
Windsor - C1LW.....	8:30am	580
Wingham - C1NX.....	10:30am	920

NEW BRUNSWICK

Saint John - C1SJ.....	9:30am	700
------------------------	--------	-----

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown - C1CY.....	7:00am	630
---------------------------	--------	-----

NOVA SCOTIA

Digby - C1DY.....	6:00am	1420
Kentville - C1EN.....	8:30am	1490
Middleton - C1AD.....	8:30am	1350
New Glasgow - C1EC.....	7:30am	1320
Weymouth - C1DY.....	8:30am	103.1
Windsor - C1AB.....	8:30am	1450
Sydney - C1CB.....	8:00 am	127C

TELEVISION: Faith 20-TV

Check your local listings for cable outlets airing Faith 20.

Alberta - Lethbridge - C1IL
..... Thursday - 9:00pm
..... Saturday - 12:00noon

Vision-TV (every Saturday)

British Columbia..... 7:00 & 10:00pm
Alberta..... 8:00 & 11:00pm
Sask. & Manitoba..... 6:00 & 9:00pm
Ontario & Quebec..... 7:00 & 10:00pm
Nfld., N.B., N.S. & P.E.I. 8:00 & 11:00pm

THE BACK TO GOD HOUR

P.O. Box 5070, Station LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
(905) 336-2920

Time Management/Agriculture

Simply satisfied

Hilda J. Born

The advantage of traveling lightly through life is often forgotten. Glittering malls lure us to buy things we may enjoy at some time in the future. TV commercials call us to try out the good things that were made just for our benefit.

That all of these things also occupy space is never mentioned. One seldom gets advice on an item's upkeep once he or she has made the purchase. Each item that is to enrich our lives needs shelf, floor or garage space.

Are the new brands of food really more delicious? Is the latest furniture trend more functional and attractive? If so, let's enjoy it. But if it creates a storage problem it is better to give the goods or the funds to worthwhile charitable organizations.

Hours spent in wandering

through bright, glitzy markets can be either wasted or well utilized. If that time is spent only to satisfy a desire for something new or different, it may be of no value and is not likely to satisfy that desire.

If, however, our motivation is for good exercise, to supply a need in our home, or to help out someone unable to shop for her- or himself, then the time and trip take on meaning. Such a goal can be reached.

Recently I went to help a young woman recovering from surgery. "How may I help you?" I asked Gretta. She hesitated. Because I'm older she was reluctant to ask me for help. But she needed help. "Well, since I'm on crutches, I've been unable to sweep the kitchen floor," Gretta admitted. To me this was obvious.

While my husband chauffeured

her to the medical clinic, I washed walls, cupboards and floor. This home was so simple and functional that with an hour's brisk soaping the place sparkled!

When Gretta came home she was delighted.

Gretta is a scientist, and so is her husband, Al (and they are not regular churchgoers). Their passion is to teach mathematics and physics. It's clear that Gretta and Al do not want to spend their years in busyness with household chores. Their furniture is simple in line and texture. Some fine paintings add beauty to the rooms. Even their children's clothing and play area show restraint.

It was easy for me to tidy up and find rest in this quick-clean home. It reminded me of the subdued atmosphere in some Japanese homes. I would like to emulate

their efficiency.

Although I went to help Gretta, she helped me see some unnecessary things that I have carried into our home. When we were poor, we managed with less. Now it takes discipline to cull the things that clutter our lives.

On our return home we packed several boxes with goods and clothes that we don't regularly use. They'll go to community and overseas relief agencies. After filling some bags for the local food bank, our pantry is better organized too.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." (1 Tim. 6:6-7)

Hilda Born lives in Abbotsford, B.C.



Their furniture is simple in line and texture.

Laughing at farmers? They laugh at themselves

Last month I attended a meeting with Alberta's Minister of Agriculture Ed Stelmach. I was part of a delegation from Earthkeeping, Alberta's organization for people working together on a Christian perspective on food and agriculture. The minister must have enjoyed the meeting, as did we, for it ran well beyond our allotted time.

I have been at meetings before with government ministers, and they were often discouraging. Government officials tend to use the time presenting their own partisan opinions rather than listening to other points of view.

Mr. Stelmach, however, was attentive while our president, Christine Mitzner, read through a well-prepared brief which concentrated on two major current areas of concern.

One item was the environmen-

tal impact of intensive agriculture and encroaching urban sprawl, the other was the effect of the oil and gas industry on agriculture.

Earthkeeping always takes the approach of looking at all sides and factors while trying to be faithful to Scripture. The Minister seemed to respond well to that approach, even though our brief was uncompromising where righteousness should prevail.

He understood

When Mrs. Mitzner finished reading, the Minister responded, presenting the Department of Agriculture's stand and activity in the areas pinpointed. He also gave us some of his own philosophy. At one point he said, "The good Lord expects food to be grown on good black soil and not in places like the rain forest." I couldn't help

uttering a fervent "Amen!" which seemed to briefly throw the Minister off track. I happen to live on that little black island of soil being encroached upon by Edmonton's sprawl.

After Mr. Stelmach's response we had a frank discussion. It was made clear that we were not there to tear down, but to promote the building of good relations and a thriving agriculture. It was refreshing to interact with a government representative who not only understood agriculture from a farmer's perspective, because he is one, but had a good understanding of the bigger picture.

He was very well aware of not only the outside pressures exerting negative impact on food production, but also of the need for farmers to realize that their practices, too, can seriously affect others.

Good humor man

There was good-humored give-and-take. Our delegation was pointed in its request that serious matters would be dealt with judiciously by the government. The Minister was candid in letting us know of the pull on him from various directions. There was laughter, too, as we realized together some of the absurdities of life. We agreed to meet again, and the Minister solicited Earthkeeping's ongoing input into his work. We left the legislature building feeling en-

couraged and in good humor.

The next evening my wife and I attended a meeting with someone who, like the Minister of Agriculture, is a former farmer. Ron Salk is not only the president of a company which consults on agricultural technology, but he has an alter ego, a farmer named Steve Stubblejumpski from Double Bumps, Alberta.

With Steve as guest speaker, we experienced an evening of laughing at ourselves: farmers and rural life. The Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) sponsored the evening for its local clients and their families.

The material was not always politically correct, and perhaps that is typical of farmers. Steve spoke in a Ukrainian accent and was dressed in a pair of coveralls and a fur hat jammed down on his head. He gave us excellent impressions of, among others, Jean Chretien, Preston Manning, a bull and a sheep. His animated, home-made humor had us all, pre-schoolers to grandparents, in stitches.

Stubblejumpski found a way to simultaneously relate to us and poke some fun at us. Even the hog farmers howled with laughter though many of them are suffering severe financial setbacks. Farm politics were lampooned when the speaker said he could not get a loan from FCC until he changed his name to Van Stubblejumpski.

Farmers are smarting from the cost/price squeeze. Finances look pretty dreary sometimes, and we might take them and ourselves too seriously. It has been said that farmers like to go curling because there they don't think about farming with its complexities and uncertainties. An evening of zany humor is probably far more therapeutic.

I am glad to be part of a good-humored organization such as Earthkeeping, which seeks the good by mending fences and building bridges.

Vern Glennie operates a farm near Edmonton.

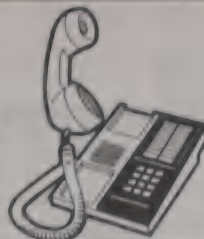
AOW en BEDRIJFSPENSIOEN
Dutch Retirement Consulting Agency

Als U na 1 januari 1957 bent geëmigreerd heeft U mogelijk recht op AOW (pensioen). Heeft U of Uw partner in Nederland gewerkt, dan heeft U mogelijk recht op Bedrijfspensioen. Wenst U hulp, contact: Dutch Retirement Consulting Agency P.O. Box 7544, Grand Rapids, MI 49510 ...of bel één van de volgende nummers: (616) 245-9911, (616) 531-4046/res.

Business Directory

Only \$25
per month!
1 (800) 969-4838

BUSINESS AND SERVICE DIRECTORY



CANADIAN CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

Fred R. Vander Velde
Executive Director
2621 Cavendish Drive
Burlington, ON L7P 3W6
Tel: (905) 336-5619
Fax: (905) 336-2376
E-mail: ccef@bigwave.ca



970 Bonnieview Avenue
Burlington, ON L7T 1T5
Phone (905) 522-8602
Fax (905) 524-1203
www.ccbf.org
J. Hans Vander Stoep
Executive Director
jvstoep@ccbf.org

CCBF activities listed on our Web-Site

Martin's Carpet

MOBILE SHOWROOM
Carpet Vinyl Hardwood Laminate



Martin J. Macgregor
President/Owner

OVER 3000 SAMPLES - Proven value!
FREE Shop at Home Service, in The
Greater Golden Horseshoe Area
(905) 333-1885 Burlington, Ont.
"You're Walking On Our Reputation"



HARRY HOUTMAN
M.A., C.F.P.



P.O. Box 800
Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z9 •
(905) 640-8464

Financial Planner for
Wills, Estates, Taxes
& Charitable Gifts
Confidential consultation
without obligation

David den Boer

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

specializing in
small businesses and charities

241 Bonaventure Dr.,
Hamilton, ON L9C 4R1
Tel.: (905) 389-2670; Fax: (905) 389-6268



GARY VAN EYK, CMA
Certified Management Accountant

50 Lakeport Rd., Suite 201
St. Catharines, ON L2N 4P7

Bus: (905) 646-7331
Fax: (905) 646-0951

Serving the Mississauga/Oakville area



George Kloet

RE/MAX REALTY
Enterprises Inc.
1697 Lakeshore Rd. W.
Mississauga, ON
L5J 1J4
(905) 855-2200

A Dutch Mill Flower Shop

Specializing in
exotic cut flowers & tropical plants

Tel.: (519) 725-1113
Toll Free: 1-877-334-3303
41 Princess St. E.
Waterloo, ON N2J 2H6

Janice Vander Ploeg

Stamford Home Hardware

The Fire Place Experts
Toro Power Equipment

3639 Portage Rd.
Niagara Falls, ON
L2J 2K8

Bert Prinzen
(905) 356-2921
Fax (905) 356-7360

Village Interiors

- custom drapery
- bedspreads
- comforters
- roll blinds
- California shutters
- silhouette shades
- venetians
- woven woods
- vertical blinds
- pleated shades
- vignette shades
- luminette sheers

11 Livingston Avenue
GRIMSBY, ON L3M 1K6

Clem Bezemer
(905) 945-8008

RAMAKER'S IMPORTS INC.

We specialize in
Dutch food • cheese • chocolate • textile & gifts

579 Ontario St.
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 4N4

Henry Ramaker, Pres.
(905) 934-6454



- interior and exterior wood
- and steel doors
- garage doors

Contact: Ted Van Geest

Regional Doors & Hardware (Niagara) Ltd.
44 Scott St. W., Box 2187 Station B,
St. Catharines, ON L2M 6P6
Phone: (905) 684-8161; Fax: (905) 684-7331

Hulse & English

FUNERAL HOME
75 Church St., St. Catharines

(905) 684-6346

24 Hours
Serving the community for 151 years
IAN H. RUSSELL

Ada Realty Ltd.

Suite 404, 2011-137 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5A 4W2
Tel. (403) 473-8149



Sef Vandermeulen

DUTCH TOKO

European Imports

118 Wyndham St. N., Guelph
(519) 822-4690
Mountain Plaza Mall, Hamilton
(905) 383-2981

Charles R. Greenham BA, CGA
Certified General Accountant

350 Scott St., Unit #17
St. Catharines, ON L2N 6T4

Bus.: (905) 646-4515;
Res.: (905) 935-3337

Tel. (905) 688-8139
Fax (905) 685-7651
Res. (905) 684-4389



MARK D. ESHUIS, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister - Solicitor - Notary Public

- Legal services at reasonable rates
- Free initial consultation
- Home visits available
- Real Estate
- Wills & Estates
- Civil Litigation
- Criminal Litigation

15 Church St.
P.O. Box 96
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 6R4

BAKKER ATAMANUK

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Canada Trust House, Second Floor
60 James St., St. Catharines, ON L2R 7J8

Albert J. Bakker
(905) 688-1520

MAGNAVOX-HITACHI-ZENITH SALES & SERVICE
TELEVISION-RADIO-STEREO
ANTENNA INSTALLATION & REPAIRS



GARY VAN DYK
Serving the Niagara area for 30 years

GRANTHAM TV CENTRE LTD.

391 Vine St., St. Catharines, Ont.
Phone: (905) 934-9952 or (905) 934-9964



Serving the Kitchener-Waterloo
area in real estate.

Jake Benjamins
Broker

Res.: (519) 749-1641; Bus.: (519) 885-6190



MERRITT FUNERAL HOME

287 Station St., Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

Serving Families For 4 Generations
Directors: Gove C. Merritt and Thomas C. Merritt



(905) 957-7031

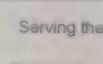


Jerry's Auto Body
(Beamsville) Inc.

Serving Beamsville and area since 1969
Complete Collision Repairs • Quality Refinishing

Jerry Gerritsen
Alan Gerritsen

5529 Regional Rd. #81
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B3
Phone/Fax: (905) 563-7702



Serving the CAMBRIDGE, GUELPH and
KITCHENER-WATERLOO
Areas



Herman Jonker

Sales Representative
Res.: (519) 570-9465/Bus.: (519) 885-6190

Electric Power Tool Service • Saw Blade Sharpening
Supplier of Quality Woodworking Machines

ART'S TOOL SALES
& SERVICE Ltd.

10 Nihon Dr.
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 1L1
(905) 646-0728
Aart Van Krimpen



Winter Bookkeeping & Tax Services

Emma Winter

- Full Bookkeeping Services
- Financial Statements
- Tax Return Preparation
- Mass Mailing Services



4184 Mountain St., P.O. Box 844, Beamsville, ON
L0R 1B0
Office: (905) 563-4471 or Home: (905) 563-4681

Glendale Motors

407 Wilson St., Ancaster
Just west of Mohawk on Hwy #2
We supply propane

Rob Brouwer
Doug Kloet



(905) 648-4113 **Adrian Kloet (owner)**



CANTATA

Church & Home Organ Consultants
R.R. #1, Otterville, ON N0J 1R0
Phone: (519) 688-3540

Authorized JOHANNUS dealer

\$8,995 incl. tax.
Ask for the 20-bit digital technology!
Willem Flink

Comment

*How do you learn when you're 'old'?**Dear Adrian,*

This business of aging is an interesting process, isn't it? It affects all areas of life in remarkable ways. Of course we age physically. Unfortunately, I think, when the subject of aging comes up people tend to think about losing what we had.

I've recently had the chance both to discover something about myself and to think about another aspect of aging: learning.

My sister and I recently gave an organ/piano recital in California, where my sister lives. We have done this kind of thing before - many years ago - but although we have both continued playing and studying over the years, this is the first time we have played together in a long time.

The major work on the program was a Mendelssohn piano concerto. I played the piano part and my sister arranged the orchestral accompaniment for organ. We had performed this concerto years ago, so it was a matter of revisiting something we had once known.

It was fascinating to me to see how I have developed musically in the intervening years. Technically, yes, it takes a bit longer to get the fingers up to performance level. But I discovered I don't need to practise as repetitively as I used to. I practise smarter.

One of my teachers used to say, "Whenever you make a mistake, you make it in your head before you make it with your fingers; and when you correct it you have to correct it in your head before your fingers will do what you want them to do."

He was right! I'm now much more aware of the need to focus and concentrate on the music and on what I'm doing. When I make a mistake, I invariably realize my mind has been wandering. Also, I've found it more helpful than ever before to practise away from the piano, that is, only in my mind.

But that's not a loss. I think that's something that comes with maturity. It's a question of how we learn and when we learn, and how we use previous knowledge and experience.

Another reason for me to consider that question is that I'm serving on a Christian Reformed synodical committee to make recommendations on continuing education for pastors. Should such education be required? If so, of what should it consist? Etc.

There seems to be an interesting range of feelings and opinions among pastors on the subject. There is great enthusiasm on the part of many, and they will continue studying and learning whether it is ever required or not. They are self-motivated. But there are others (not only Christian Reformed, because I checked with other denominations) who mightily resist the whole idea, especially if it's required.

I find that hard to understand. But leaving aside whatever personal reasons a pastor might have for that attitude, I find it interesting to consider the question of *how* education changes over a lifetime.

Would the educational needs of a 60-year-old pastor be similar to those of a 30-year-old? Of course not! But should a 60-year-old pastor be required to continue learning in some formal way? Please, yes!

You're a great learner, Adrian. How has your learning changed over the years?

Mary*Dear Mary,*

How has my learning changed over the years? What an interesting question!

I'm aware of having made an important shift: from a major focus on learning what's "out there" to learning what's "inside." Learning what's "out there" has always come easy. As student in school and catechism, I would smell out early what was required and make sure I passed each level.

Of course, in the process I acquired a lot of useful knowledge, and sometimes what was offered to me even responded to my interests, to genuine personal questions I raised for myself. Driven by my curiosity, I remember buying my own books at bookstore sales, reading libraries dry, asking unwelcome questions and getting within earshot of interesting people.

When I left for Canada at 19, some of those books and all of those questions went with me, books and questions my parents didn't know I had. I still have one or two of those books, and virtually all of the questions. Profound questions have no final answers. Both formal schooling and my personal learning agendas were focused then on "out there," on information: facts and analysis. That side of me, well trained by formal systems in school and church, relishes logical ideas and well constructed systems of thought and organization that seem true forever.

At the time I loved my (Dutch and Canadian) young peoples society (YPS) times: pursuits of "purity of doctrine," rewards for catching opponents out, discovering latent heresies, and predicting slippery slopes. And every society member could play those games, even though by and large only the males did. Being male, clever with words and therefore successful in school and YPS, I "bought into" the culture of judgment and condemnation.

But as I have grown older another side of me has come to the fore. I've come to recognize the limits, sometimes evil limits, of reducing truth and faith to systems of logic, to doctrines and norms.

Some years ago I discovered that I (almost) always judged others on the basis of their sound ideas, "sound" meaning close to my own, and on the basis of whether they behaved roughly like me. That's what my tradition had taught me, especially in my formative years when I witnessed a church schism and its aftermath.

The adult conversations that swirled around me when I was 10-15 years old modeled condemnation of persons not on the basis of evil lifestyles, but on purity of ideas. If a person did not have ideas like mine (us), then I needed not be loving and kind to such a person.

The adult models were clear: I saw my parents' friends turn into enemies overnight, and sibling uncles and aunts break off almost all contact with each other. When I was about 15, a prominent family left our congregation for a Reformed congregation of another kind. Our minister told me that I had to abandon my friendship (budding romance, actually) with a daughter member of that family.

It has taken far too long, but I've come to see limits of the rational mode of learning. I'm still curious about the cosmos. But the major mode of my learning has become "reflexivity" - the intent to learn from oneself and from others. I now spend a lot of time and energy reflecting on human situations, watching others and monitoring my own feelings and reactions in their presence.

This way I learn a lot about myself, about my angers and frustrations, the unjust use of my power, about the temptations to put others down and diminish them publicly. On the far more positive side, I have experienced the glory of seeing oneself and others blossom in an ambience of love and respect.

Reflexivity is a much harder form of learning, however. One comes face to face with the Apostle Paul's wish not to do X but doing it anyway, or the wishing to do Y and being incapable of it.

I have a feeling that reflexivity is the only way to learn of sin and evil. But also of grace. For the ultimate blessings of this kind of learning are peace and joy, peace with, and joy in, the accomplishments of others. And that road taken has made all the difference.

You've asked a profound question, to which there are no definitive answers. In my next letter I would like to write about what I've discovered about church learning.

*Loose,
Adrian*

Adrian Peetoom is a retired educational educator who lives in Waterloo, Ont. Mary VanderVeen is a retired therapist who lives in Toronto.

Amsterdam Charters Seniors from \$509

First departure April 17

Valentine - Insignia Travel

10 Appleton Garden Circle, Mississauga, ON L5R 3K6

(905) 890-5333

Toll-free: 1-800-268-6144

London (519) 472-2700

St. Catharines (905) 935-9103

News Comment

Nose for News



Bert Hielema

ACCORDING TO A front page story in *Christian Courier*, a major resort is planned for Niagara Falls (Ontario). This "Christian Tourist Destination" is expected to attract half a million visitors. The development will include a conference centre, Christian museum, indoor water park, sports complex etc. Will it also have a special platform from which the saints can be launched into space when the Rapture comes? Something to consider for the developers. Might be a good selling point.

THIS SET ME THINKING what makes a development or a museum Christian? The story I just mentioned quotes the man behind the idea as saying that "Niagara Falls is... a wonderful place to get to know the Creator." If the developers are so keen on people meeting God in Creation, why not donate the 290 acres as a park, without developing it; development will uproot the entire parcel, will bring more cars, more clutter and more pollution to an already highly cluttered chunk of God's good creation.

Then there is the projected indoor water park. Just imagine the non-renewable energy needed to heat this in winter. To me, a Christian centre would focus on energy-efficient buildings with windmills and solar panels.

IF I WERE TO PLAN a housing development, I would include large gardens for self-sufficiency, and community housing where children can grow up in a secure and trusting atmosphere, where work and life and worship are totally integrated. Today it takes such a Christian village to raise a child. I was reminded of this when I read a recent story in the *Guardian Weekly*.

This paper featured a report published by the British Mental Health Foundation. The report dealt with mental illness in children, which now affects 20 per cent of them and is getting worse.

Says the study: "As a nation, we have an insidious and growing problem on our hands that may soon start undermining the very fabric of our society."

And the London-based *Daily Mail* splashed this story on its front page: "Terrible Toll on Children of Family Break-Ups." It states that, "The well-being of our children depends on the ability of their parents to form lasting and strong relationships, first with each other, secondly with every one else. Raising children can never be anything other than a collective enterprise."

It is that sort of community that is needed to make a church Christian, a community Christian and also a family Christian.

IN MY EARLY YOUTH I remember how I spent much of the summers, and the times when babies were born into our family — which happened quite frequently (eventually nine in all). I was with my grandparents at their farm, where their hot meal would be potatoes and buttermilk porridge.

On Sundays the coffee would contain a small sugar clump, the only concession to luxury. I can still picture the curious shape of my uncle's fork, worn out from picking pieces of potatoes out of the cast-iron pan and eating them after dipping into the "stip" (a kind of gravy, in this case of buttermilk).

There is an old joke farmers used to tell about city folk and their gravy: they write it as "jus," they pronounce it as "shoe," but it's really "sup." Nowadays meals are not that simple or one-sided, and variety seems to be the key.

SCIENTISTS INVESTIGATING the secrets of long life and good health — always our Christian duty to pursue — have long known that fruit, vegetables and red wine are good for you, but not just any old fruit and veggies will do the trick. Cherry tomatoes are healthier than their larger cousins.

ins. Lollo Rosso lettuce outperforms any other kind of the floppy green variety and the Chilean reds seem to be the healthiest wines.

The secret lies in a substance's levels of flavonoids, which are even more effective as an antioxidant than vitamins E and C. Antioxidants fight the notorious "free radicals" that are implicated in a range of diseases from heart troubles and cancer to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Flavonoid levels vary greatly in vegetables which may seem similar to each other. For example: red and yellow onions have high levels while white onions have hardly any. So when you order your garden seeds this spring keep this in mind. I checked my mail order catalogue and, yes, the recommended varieties are available.

ON THE SUBJECT OF HEALTH both *Time* magazine and the *Globe and Mail* recently gave extensive space to herbal remedies. To ensure good health in later life, an early start is needed and part of disease prevention is the use of herbs. A German government health panel has evaluated hundreds of herbs. I'll single out their findings regarding only three items:

Garlic: It's active against viruses, fungi and parasites. It lowers cholesterol and the formation of blood clots. Garlic enzymes are a potent antibiotic.

Echinacea: It shortens the intensity and duration of colds, helps to control urinary tract infections, and aids the body to muster defences against invading micro-organisms.

Ginger: A time-honored remedy for settling an upset stomach. It strengthens the heart muscle and promotes the secretion of saliva and gastric juices. We use it in tea in the morning, pouring boiling water on tiny pieces of ginger and green tea.

SPEAKING OF SALIVA, kissing stimulates saliva, which in turn helps reduce the formation of cavities. "Kissing is nature's cleansing process," reports the U.S. Academy of General Dentistry. More than a modest good-night kiss is required, however.

By the way, the record for the

longest uninterrupted kiss is 417 hours, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. That is more than 17 days. Hard to believe. I found this little nugget in a book report on *The Art of Kissing*. This 180-page book is yours for \$13.99, a bargain as books go.

OLD-FASHIONED PRACTICES are in. The *Los Angeles Times* recently reviewed a book called *Getting Rich in America*. The author has a very simple recipe: work hard, resist temptation and sock away savings. If young people cut back on soft drinks and junk food for just \$1.50 per day, they'll boost their retirement savings by \$300,000 through the secret of compound interest. They'll need the extra money too, because they'll live longer.

EACH DAY I RECEIVE through e-mail a Global Intelligence Update. Let me give you some of the latest.

Forget about Kosovo. Why? The U.S. could not risk a major confrontation with Russia. Investors have turned sour on both Russia and China, and with no more new money coming in and billions already invested in these countries, pressing them too hard will place those investments at risk. Where human rights or law and order are not respected, what makes anyone think that property rights will be sacrosanct?

Both China and Russia are in a deep mess. As long as GM and Ford and Volkswagen were building factories in these countries, the investors had a great deal of power. But now the investments

are made and the power has shifted to the local governments, which no longer have to please potential investors. Investors are now worried about whether they can repatriate money made from the factory and, most of all, that the factory won't be taken away.

In my view, money and its consequences play a large, if not crucial, role in politics. The Western world had the naive idea that once capitalism would take hold in the largest markets in the world (Russia and China) Western values of honesty (paying taxes) and fair dealing (still the Christian legacy with which we are blessed) would automatically follow. But these countries have no such heritage, which heritage is also rapidly disappearing here, so the result is chaos there and will soon be chaos here as well.

THE YEAR 2000 is at hand and we still have not decided what we are going to call the first decade. In a few months we are leaving the nineteen-nineties and are going into the what? The two-thousands?

What do we call the coming 10 years from 2000-2009? The double-ohs? The pre-teens? The zeros? Will it be the long form. The first decade of the 21st century? Or, like Y2K, FD21C?

Well, I leave it with you. Soon enough something will emerge.

Bert Hielema, who lives in Tweed, Ontario, and is ever hunting flavonoids, has found some good red wine from Chile (De Martino, at \$7.55 US a bottle). He spent most of March in Raleigh, N.C.



nelson insurance brokers
limited

PERSONAL, COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS
INSURANCE SERVICES

Ralph Toering • John Van Wijngaarden • Martha Bunker

305 Plains Road East, Burlington, ON L7T 2C7
Tel. (905) 631-9090 • Fax (905) 631-9099 • Toll Free 1-888-345-9090



Classifieds

Classified Rates	Anniversaries	Obituaries	Birthdays
<p>(Revised February 1, 1995)</p> <p>Births \$25.00</p> <p>Marriages and Engagements \$40.00</p> <p>Anniversaries \$45.00</p> <p>2-column anniversaries \$90</p> <p>Obituaries \$45.00</p> <p>Notes of thanks \$35.00</p> <p>Birthdays \$40.00</p> <p>All other one-column classified advertisements: \$15.00 per column inch.</p> <p>NOTE: Minimum fee is \$15.00. Letter under file number \$35.00 extra.</p> <p>Photos: \$25.00 additional charge.</p> <p>All rates are GST inclusive.</p> <p>Ads must be in by Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., 9 business days prior to publication date.</p> <p>ATTENTION!</p> <p>a) <i>Christian Courier</i> reserves the right to print classifieds using our usual format.</p> <p>b) A sheet with information about an obituary sent by funeral homes is not acceptable.</p> <p>c) Photographs sent by fax are not acceptable. Please send original photos.</p> <p>d) <i>Christian Courier</i> will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.</p> <p>e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to five column inches. <i>Christian Courier</i> reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of \$15.00 per column inch (GST incl.).</p> <p>NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS</p> <p>We offer a one-year subscription for only \$25.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the <i>Christian Courier</i> and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. Please enclose \$25.00 and the couple's correct address.</p> <p>Christian Courier 4-261 Martindale Rd. St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1 Phone: (905) 682-8311 Fax: (905) 682-8313</p> <p>Our new e-mail address: ccadpromo@aol.com</p>	 <p><i>Congratulations to John and Co Boot on their 45th wedding anniversary.</i></p> <p>1954 April 3 1999 "O how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee, which Thou hast wrought for them that trust Thee." (Ps. 31:19) It is with joy and thankfulness to God in which we hope to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary JOHN & JACOBA BOOT (nee BOM) Congratulations from your children and grandchildren William & Marianne Boot Christopher, Michael Peter & Helen Oosterhof Steven, Kevin, Ryan, Heather, Rebecca Eiko & Diana Oosterhof Jason, Michael, Daniel Chester & Grace Baarda Theodore Home address: 223 Concession Rd., R.R. #2, Scotland, ON N0E 1R0</p> <p>1949 1999 With much joy and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father, we are pleased to announce our parents' 50th wedding anniversary D.V. March 23. MEYER and AAFJE BAELDE (nee VANGENDEREN) Congratulations Mom and Dad! With love from Peter & May Baelde — New Westminster, B.C. Cora & Henry Staal — Russell, Ont. Gerry Baelde — Nepean, Ont. Frank Baelde — Chesterville, Ont. and 8 grandchildren. Home address: P.O. Box 1096, Winchester, ON K0C 2K0</p>	<p>August 25, 1920 - March 9, 1999 The Lord took unto himself in Glory, our dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather ABRAHAM (ABE) JOHANNES WAMSTEKER in his 79th year. <i>Voorwaar, Gods heil is reeds nabij 't geslacht hetwelk Hem vraest en Zijne hulp verwacht Opdat er eer in onze lande woon' En zich aldaar op 't luisterrijkst vertoon'</i> Beloved husband of Jackie (Koomneef) Dear father of: Peter & Wilma Wamsteeker — Mississauga, Ont. Richard, Darlene, Anthony Adrian & Tina Wamsteeker — Meaford, Ont. Melanie & Paul Cumin, Skip Jeannette & Henry Myderwyk — Cambridge, Ont. Kerri, Jodie Rex & Leah Wamsteeker — Hagersville, Ont. Nathan, Wendy, Leslie, Katie Shirley Wamsteeker — Cambridge, Ont. Natascha Yvonne & Henry Westerman — Courice, Ont. Colleen, Justine, Brent Funeral service and burial was held on Friday, March 12, 1999, in Oshawa, Ont. Correspondence address: Jackie Wamsteeker, 237 Thomas St., Oshawa, ON L1J 1M2</p> <p>On Tuesday, February 2, 1999, after a brief illness, the Lord took from us our best friend JANTJE VANDERTOL-TERPSTRA Sadly missed by: Patricia Boeyenga Frank & Dora Dahm Douwe & Okje Roorda Rein & Sylvia Vandewal</p> <p>Makkinga Fr. Kingston the Neth. Ont. August 2, 1919 - March 2, 1999 "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High, will be seated in the shadow of the Almighty." (Ps.91:1) God in his mercy took home his child, MARTHA ELIZABETH WAGTER-KOOISTRA Much loved wife for 53 years of Roelof Wagter. Also mourning her loss are her children: Lois & Jim Harold Herna & Don Lafontaine Wolter & Gillian Wagter Brother John & Doreen Kooistra Sisters: Mien & Martin Staring Ge Iwema-Kooistra Aukje & Ko Passchier Brother-in-law Douwe de Boer Lovingly remembered by her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Martha was predeceased by her parents, three sisters and one brother. Her deep faith and her loving ways were a comfort and inspiration to all whose lives she touched. Correspondence address: R. Wagter, 20 Elmwood, #217, Kingston, ON K7M 2Y5</p>	<p>The Lord has honored us with a celebration of love. Please join our families in an open house for MRS. ADRIANA UYL (nee DEJOOOE) on her 80th birthday. This special day will be held on Saturday, March 20, 1999, from 1-4 p.m. at the Blyth Christian Reformed Church. Best wishes only. Home address: P.O. Box 189, Blyth, ON N0M 1H0</p> <p>Obituaries</p> <p>Holten London the Neth. Ont. June 28, 1928 - February 21, 1999 After 70 years of living, loving, laughing, traveling, reading, singing and being the best husband, father, and Opa that he could be, our earthly carpenter WILLIAM BELDMAN now rests at the feet of the Master Carpenter. He entered the heavenly kingdom on Sunday, February 21, 1999. Beloved husband for 45 years of Mies Beldman. Dear father and Opa of: Helen & Jeff Adams — Calgary, Alta. Lindsay, Dillon, Corey Wilma & Rick Dykstra — St. Thomas, Ont. Nick, Wayne, Kelly Ray & Janet Beldman — London, Ont. William, Andrew, Jocelyn, Mark Joyce & Nick Renke — London, Ont. April, Dylan A funeral service celebrating his life on earth and his new life with Jesus was held on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, interment at Forest Lawn Cemetery. "See, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5) That is God's promise! Correspondence address: Mrs. M. Beldman, 2255 River Rd., London, ON N5W 6C4</p> <p>October 19, 1928 - March 1, 1999 "I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free" (Ps. 119:32) HENRY HOEKSTRA was called home by his Lord and Savior. Suffering many years with chronic illness, we take great comfort in knowing he is no longer suffering. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Tilly, brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren. Hilda (deceased 1978) Dorothy & Randy DeVries — Hampton Jacob, Nicholas, Tyler, Charlene Wendy & Mark VanderMeer — Caledonia Yvonne, Craig, Nicole, Bryan, Michelle, Kevin, Trevor Betty & George VanderMeer — Niagara on the Lake Jenica, Stephanie Jeffrey & Leona Hoekstra — Shelbourne Daniel, Nathan, Joshua Joanne & Mike Costa — Brampton Matthew Correspondence address: Tilly Hoekstra, 7900 McLaughlin Rd., South, Prov. T., #903, Brampton, ON L6Y 5A7</p>
<p>1909 March 31 1999 With thanksgiving to our heavenly Father, we wish to announce the 90th birthday of our Mom, Oma and Great-Oma SYLVIA (SYKE) FEDDEMA (nee BOERSMA) Congratulations and love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. An open house will be held on Good Friday, April 2, 1999, D.V. from 2-4 p.m. in the Harmony Hall at Holland Christian Homes in Brampton. Correspondence address: Mrs. S. Feddema, Faith Manor #131, 7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., Brampton, ON L6Y 5A7</p>			

Classifieds

Anniversaries

Oostemeer, Fr. Athens
the Neth. Ont.
1939 March 16 1999
With thankfulness to God for his love and faithfulness, we are happy to announce the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents

GERRIT and IEKE DE JONG
(nee DYKSTRA)

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and keep them in his care. With love and congratulations from your family:

Catherine De Roos
Peter & Corne De Jong
Frank & Dorothy De Jong
Barry & Cathy De Jong
14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren
Home address: R. R. 4,
North Augusta, ON K0G 1R0

1949 April 14 1999
TOM and AGNES deGELDER
With thankfulness for God's faithfulness, we celebrate your 50th anniversary Mom and Dad. Truly this is a time to rejoice in the Lord.
With all our love
Cathy & Derek Bridges — Calgary
Kann & Matt, Greg & Sharon
Neil deGelder & Michelle Rupp — Vancouver
Lucas & Jacob
John deGelder — Calgary
Tom & Lambert
Joyce & John Hunter — Edmonton
Judy & Sid Ekkelenkamp — Edmonton
Alex, Jenelle, Carmen, Robin
An open house will be held on April 10, 1999, from 2 - 4 p.m. at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church, Calgary, Alta.

Personal

Christian Widower, 40 yr. old, non-smoker, non-drinker, would like to meet Christian lady who loves children and the good things in life. Send letters to File #2689, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Widower, age 72, hobbies: cooking, listening to music, shopping and visiting, looking for a friendly, good-humored lady companion in south-western Ontario. Please send letter to File #2690, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1



The Living Word

Sermons for reading services.

Contact:
R. Vander Ploeg Sac./Treas.
37 Brick Pond Lane
Woodstock, ON N4Y 1G1
Phone: (519) 539-2117

LANGLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Langley Christian Schools, an interdenominational Christian school system of 700 students, is inviting applications for the following areas:

- Elementary** - primary teacher
Middle (7-8) - Grade 7 generalist
- Grade 8 Math and Science
- teaching Vice-Principal responsible for curriculum and leadership
High (9-12) - 2 or 3 positions - any combination of Math, Bible, French, English, Science, Business, Choral Music
- Learning Assistance position Grades 7 - 12
- possible Librarian for grades 7 - 12
- teaching Vice-Principal position

Forward applications with resumé, references and statement of faith to:

Leo Smit, Superintendent
Langley Christian Schools
22702 - 48th Avenue Phone: (604) 533-0839
Langley, B.C. V2Z 2T6 Fax: (604) 533-0842

Calvin Christian School in Dundas, Ontario
is experiencing another year of growth.

As a result, we are possibly in need of:

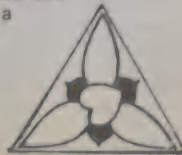
- ★ half time assistant teachers for primary, junior and intermediate grades. A teaching degree is a necessity.
- ★ part time teacher aids for the primary and junior grades

The school also invites applications for:

- ★ a possible 50-60% remedial teacher position, experience preferred.
- ★ a definite grade 8 teacher vacancy.

Please forward all inquiries and applications to:

Mr. Jack Zondag, Principal
Calvin Christian School
542 Ofield Rd., N., RR #2
Dundas, ON L9H 5E2
Phone: (905) 627-1411

CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Terrace, BC
TEACHING POSITIONS OPEN

Centennial Christian School invites applications from committed, Christian educators to fill openings for the 1999/2000 school year in the following areas:

Intermediate Opening - Grade 5
Learning Assistance - Grades 4-10
Music - Grades 1-5 and Band - Grades 6-10

These positions may also involve teaching duties in other areas

Centennial Christian School is an inter-denominational school and presently offers Christian education to approximately 220 students in Kindergarten - Grade 10. The addition of Grades 11 and 12 is being planned. Please send letter of application, resume and other pertinent information to:

Centennial Christian School
Frank Voogd - Principal
3608 Sparks Street Phone: (250) 635-6173
Terrace, B.C. V8G 2V6 Fax: (250) 635-9385

SMITHVILLE DISTRICT
CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

a growing Christian Secondary School, whose mission it is to prepare students for a life of service, will have real and potential vacancies in the following areas:

English, Science

& Special Ed (to cover a leave of absence)

Please send all letters of inquiry and/or letters of application to:

M. Strooboscher, Principal
Smithville District Christian High School
6488 Smithville Road
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

An Easter bonnet you can eat!

(NC) — Makes one 9" cake and 6 cupcakes

16 Oreo cookies — 18-oz package yellow cake mix with pudding — 1 1/4 cups water — 1/4 cup vegetable oil — 3 eggs — 16-oz can prepared white frosting — 1 1/2 cups flaked coconut — Jelly Belly® jelly beans in your favourite colors

1. Split 8 cookies in half, saving the ones with filling. Coarsely chop all remaining cookies.
2. Blend cake mix, water, oil and eggs at low speed, then beat 2 minutes at high speed. Stir in chopped cookies.
3. Put 3 cups batter in a greased and floured 9-inch round cake pan. Put 3/4 cup batter in a greased and floured 10-oz custard cup. Bake both at 350°F for 25/30 minutes or until done. Divide remaining batter between 6 paper muffin cups. Bake at 350°F for 15/25 minutes or until done.
4. Allow cake to cool completely, then place 9" layer on a serving dish. Frost top of cake. Place cake from custard cup in centre, to make the crown of the bonnet. Reserve 1/4 cup frosting for cupcakes; use rest to frost crown of bonnet. Sprinkle with coconut, pressing lightly into the frosting.
5. Cut the cookies with filling into semicircles and arrange them round the brim of the hat. Decorate with Jelly Belly jelly beans, pressing them gently into the frosting. Frost cupcakes and decorate with Jelly Belly jelly beans.

— News Canada



air transat holidays

Amsterdam



BIKE & BOAT
IN THE
NETHERLANDS

Enjoy biking the beautiful Dutch countryside by day and boating through the Dutch waterways by night. Choose from the Northern or Southern routes and 4, 5 or 8 day tours. Adapted for amateurs and experienced bikers alike!

4 Berth Cabins
per person starting from
\$520



Summer & Fall Departures
from Toronto

\$549
from



ACCOMMODATION

AMSTERDAM
3* Eden Hotel
Kids under 2-12 yrs stay FREE!
Continental Buffet Breakfast

\$104
per person/night



TRANSPORTATION

BASIC CAR RENTAL
Mini-car category

\$39
per day from

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES

14845 Yonge St. #300, Aurora, ON L4G 6H8
Phone: (416) 969-8100 / Long distance: 1-800-565-9267
36 Secord Dr., St. Catharines, ON L2N 1K8
Phone: (905) 934-4414 Henny Vuyk: (905) 934-0666
visit us: www.verstraete.com

VELLINGA'S TRAVEL

244 Queen Street Chatham

For Information & Reservations Call Us Today!



(519) 352-5150 1-800-265-5288

Prices are per person, based on roundtrip fares and valid on one bookings only. Accommodation rates are based on double occupancy unless otherwise noted. Transportation taxes, fees, GST (where applicable) and surcharges are additional. All Rights in Air Transit. For full terms & conditions refer to Air Transit Holidays 1999/2000 Britain & Europe Buying Guide, Oct Reg #04134996.

Classifieds

Teachers	Teachers	Teachers	Teachers	Teachers
<p>BRAMPTON, Ont.: John Knox Christian School is inviting applications for openings in Grade 6-8. Specialties in Phys. Ed., Science and/or Math would be an asset. Please send resume, including a philosophy of Christian education to:</p> <p>Ms. Hilda Roukema John Knox Christian School 82 McLaughlin Road S. Brampton, ON L6Y 2C7 Phone: (905) 451-3236 Fax: (905) 451-3448</p>	<p>JARVIS, Ont.: Jarvis District Christian School is in need of a Grade 5 teacher, effective March 22, 1999 through June 30, 1999. This will likely continue for the 1999-2000 year as well (however, at the Grade 6 level). Strengths/interests particularly in the areas of Computer and French would be welcomed, but not necessarily required. Moreover, in September, 1999, we will also be in need of two full-time teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full-time Resource/Special Education teacher. The successful applicant will be in charge of the school's resource program and will play a key role in helping classroom teachers meet children's needs, as well as working with small groups and individuals. • Grade 7 classroom teacher. This will involve some rotation into the Grade 8 classroom. Strengths/interests in the areas of science, math and PE would be preferred, ability to teach and computer class would be helpful. This position also include serving as the school's computer coordinator. <p>JDCS is located in a small town, approximately 40 min. south of Hamilton. We have a total staff of eleven (including two part-time), as well as a current enrolment of 208 pupils. Please send all letters of application, resume, a brief statement of your philosophy of Christian education and other pertinent materials to:</p> <p>Garry Glasbergen, Principal Jarvis District Christian School P.O. Box 520, Jarvis, ON NOA 1J0 School phone: (519) 587-4444, School Fax: (519) 587-2985, home phone: (905) 765-7919.</p>	<p>NEWMARKET, Ont.: Holland Marsh District Christian School near Newmarket, Ontario, has possible openings throughout the grades for the 1999-2000 school year. If you have a strong practical faith and believe in serving God and others in every area of life, and if you are interested in being part of our team in a "growing" environment, please contact:</p> <p>Henry Lise, Principal Phone: (905) 775-3701, Fax: (905) 775-2395 18955 Dufferin St., R.R.#2, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9 e-mail: hmdcs@neptune.on.ca; web-site: www.neptune.on.ca/~hmdcs</p>	<p>WELLANDPORT, Ont.: Wellandport Christian School invites applications for 1999-2000 school year for the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Instructor 60% position (Grades 4-8) • Classroom teacher 40% position (Primary grade) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both the above are 1 year contracts (maternity leave) • positions can be combined to make one <p>• Possible full-time opening in Intermediate grades</p> <p>• Computer or physical education expertise</p> <p>Wellandport Christian School, established over 40 years ago, with a staff of 15 and a student enrollment of 255, is located in the heart of the Niagara Peninsula.</p> <p>Direct enquiries to:</p> <p>W. Thies, Principal Wellandport Christian School 84008 Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0 Phone: (905) 386-6272 Fax: (905) 386-7184</p>	<p>LACOMBE, Alta.: Lacombe Christian School, approximately 386 students in K-9, located in Central Alberta, invites applications from qualified teachers for a Grade 6 position. Applicants must qualify for Alberta teacher certification. Please send resume to:</p> <p>Martin Folkerts Lacombe Christian School, 5206-58 Street, Lacombe, AB T4L 1G9 Phone: (403) 782-6531, Fax: (403) 782-5760.</p>
<p>BRESLAU, Ont.: Woodland Christian High School invites applications for a full-time teaching position in Mathematics and Physics or Computer Studies. Please send applications or inquiries to:</p> <p>Gary VanArragon, Principal Woodland Christian High School R.R. 1 Breslau, ON N0B 1M0 Phone: (519) 648-2114 Fax: (519) 648-3402</p>	<p>POSITION FILLED</p>	<p>REXDALE (TORONTO), Ont.: Timothy Christian School is accepting applications for a possible junior level position. Please forward a resume including a philosophy of Christian education to:</p> <p>Mrs. C. Jonker Timothy Christian School 28 Elmhurst Drive Rexdale, ON M9W 2J5 Phone: (416) 741-5770 Fax: (416) 741-3359</p>	<p>WILLIAMSBURG, Ont.: Timothy Christian School, serving a rural community 50 minutes south of Ottawa, has a possible opening in either the junior or intermediate division. If interested and qualified, please send your resume to:</p> <p>Mr. Gary Postma, Principal Timothy Christian School Box 179 Williamsburg, ON K0C 2H0</p>	<p>RED DEER, Alta.: The Red Deer Christian School is looking for teachers for the 1999-2000 school year, who are dedicated, dynamic, and committed to educating students for joyful service. We expect to have openings in Grade two and Grade seven (band, music, and drama). The successful applicants will qualify for Alberta certification and join a Christ-centered learning community made up of 15 staff, 200+ students (ECS-9), and many committed parents and supporters. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to:</p> <p>Bob Barthel, Principal Red Deer Christian School 5210 - 61st Street Red Deer, AB T4N 6N8 Phone: (403) 346-5795 Fax: (403) 347-3003</p>
<p>CHATHAM, Ont.: The Chatham Christian Schools provide excellent, Christ-centred education to 375 Kindergarten to OAC students. In September, 1999, we will move into a brand-new multi-million dollar facility. We are currently looking for one intermediate grade teacher (Grade 8) to join our team. Strengths in P.E. or instrumental music will be an asset. Address applications and inquiries to:</p> <p>Rick Klooster Chatham Christian School 72 Tiesman Avenue Chatham, ON N7M 4G5 E-mail: ccs@ciaccess.com Fax: (519) 352-4041</p>	<p>KITCHENER, Ont.: Laurentian Hills Chr. School, located in beautiful, centrally located Kitchener, Ont., invites applications for a possible position in the upper elementary level. LHCS has grown to 200+ students, a staff of 12 full- and part-time teachers, and will be adding a new primary wing to its facilities this spring. Applicants need to be qualified teachers who demonstrate a love for God, a love for senior students and love for teaching. Please direct all inquiries and resumes identifying specific strengths and interests to:</p> <p>Luke Janssen, Principal Laurentian Hills Chr. School 11 Laurentian Dr. Kitchener, ON N2E 1C1</p>	<p>ST. CATHARINES, Ont.: Beacon Christian High School invites applications for an opening in Science and English for the 1999-2000 school year. We are seeking teachers who can show a love for God, for students, and for their field of study. Experience the joy of working with students in a small Christian high school atmosphere with smaller class sizes. The successful science candidate will have a biology/chemistry background. Please send resume and letter of application to:</p> <p>Ted Harris, Principal Beacon Christian High School 2 O'Malley Drive St. Catharines, ON L2N 6N7 Fax: (905) 937-1130</p>	<p>WOODSTOCK, Ont.: John Knox Christian School may have two full-time positions opening for the coming school year. The positions in question are at the junior and intermediate levels. Strong interests and credentials in Science, Music, French, Art, or Computers are an asset. If you desire to become part of a cohesive faculty, working with a supportive community, please send your resume including your personal beliefs about Christian education to:</p> <p>Mr. Wm. Barneveld, Principal, John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive, P.O. Box 243, Woodstock, Ont., N4S 7W8</p>	<p>MAPLE RIDGE, B.C.: Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School is now inviting candidates to apply for a full-time secondary position beginning in Sept. 1999. Previous teaching experience and strengths in science, physical education, humanities or the fine arts would be an asset. Qualified part-time applicants in the mentioned areas of expertise would be welcomed.</p> <p>Join an energetic, young Middle/High School team in a well-established Christian school. Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School is located 45 min. east of Vancouver in the city of Maple Ridge.</p> <p>Send resumes to:</p> <p>Mr. Rod Berg, Principal Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School 12140 203rd Street Maple Ridge, BC V2X 4V5</p>
<p>The May 3 Christian Courier promises to be a great guide to unforgettable vacation-time experiences.</p>  <p>Your ad should be in there, too. Call 1 (800) 969-4838 for our Fax Info Sheet. Hey! No obligation</p>	<p>LONDON, Ont.: London District Christian Secondary School invites applications to fill a position beginning September, 1999. We're looking for a diversified teacher who can help us start an instrumental music program and teach several other areas. We have a wonderful community of students and teachers waiting for you. Interested applicants should send a resume, references and a statement of Christian faith to:</p> <p>Mr. H. Kooy, Principal London District Christian Secondary School 24 Braesyde Avenue London, ON N5W 1V3 Phone: (519) 455-4360 Fax: (519) 455-4364</p>	<p>TORONTO, Ont.: Willowdale Christian School invites applications for a definite teaching position vacancy at the primary level. Candidates holding a CSTC will be given preference. Please address your questions or your letter of application and resume along with a statement of faith and your philosophy of education to:</p> <p>Mrs. C. Bootsma, Principal Willowdale Christian School 60 Hilda Avenue North York, ON M2M 1V5 Phone: (416) 222-1711 Fax: (416) 222-1939</p>	<p>SARNIA, Ont.: Sarnia Christian School invites applications for possible teaching positions in the intermediate grades. Strengths in French will be considered an asset. Please forward your resume, with a statement of faith and your philosophy of Christian Education to:</p> <p>Pete Weening 1273 Exmouth Street Sarnia, ON N7S 1W9 Phone: (519) 383-7750 Fax: (519) 383-6304 E-mail: scs@tct.net</p>	<p>VANCOUVER, B.C.: Vancouver Chr. School, a denominationally diverse community which offers Kindergarten through Grade 10, will have an opening for a Grade 9 and 10 Humanities position for the 1999/2000 school year. Deadline for replies is March 15. Please send your resume to:</p> <p>Ellen Freestone, Acting Principal Vancouver Chr. School 3496 Mons Drive Vancouver, BC V5M 3E6 No applications by fax, please</p>
		<p>WOODBRIDGE, Ont.: Toronto District Christian High School invites applications for a science (physics, biology) position and an English position. These two full-time positions begin August 1, 1999. Please send resume, credentials and statement of faith to:</p> <p>Ren Siebenga c/o Toronto District Christian High School 377 Woodbridge Avenue Woodbridge, ON L4L 2S8</p>		

Classifieds

Job Opportunities	Miscellaneous	Church News	Job Opportunities
<p>Attention Retired and/or traveling ministers. Beautiful Victoria, Vancouver Island, B.C. First CRC will be vacant as of July 1, and could use your services for an extended period of time beginning in July. This could be an opportunity meant for you. If you are interested, please write the church at:</p> <p>651 Agnes St. Victoria, BC V8Z 2E7 Fax: (250) 479-5124 E-mail: the clerk at HNienhuis@Yahoo.com</p>	<p>Bed and Breakfast. Beautiful Niagara. Easy walking distance from the Falls. Comfortable rooms, Superb Breakfast. Dutch spoken. Joan & Mike Havinga (905) 358-3534</p>	<p>With thankfulness to God, Hope Christian Reformed Church is now worshipping in its new church building. Please address all correspondence, bulletin announcements, etc. to:</p> <p>Hope Christian Reformed Church 64 Buchanan Crescent Brantford, ON N3P 2A5</p>	<p>PASTOR</p> <p>Houston Chr. Ref. Church in beautiful northwest British Columbia is seeking a full-time pastor to provide sound biblical preaching, ministry to youth and pastoral care. The church membership stands at 67 families; which translates into 169 professing members and 154 non-professing or baptized members. Please send a copy of your profile. A church profile is available upon request. For more information please contact: Rick Delau, Search Committee, Houston Chr. Ref. Church, Box 6, Houston, BC VOJ 1Z0. Phone: (250) 845-7756/Fax: (250) 845-7578.</p>
<p>Farm Help required for Dairy Farm. Short or long term. Milking experience preferred. Call (905) 627-1027. No Sunday calls, please.</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR RETIREMENT LIVING? A group of committed Christians are considering starting a Christian seniors' residence. This home would meet the needs of those who require assistance with daily tasks but do not require nursing care. The location would be in the Waterloo area. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call (519) 669-8451.</p>	<p>Available for Call. Classis Eastern Canada heartily recommends that churches consider Mr. Hilbrent Vander Heide for a call. He was declared eligible for a call after passing an examination to be admitted to the ministry via Art. 7 C.O. He may be contacted at 1198 Lockhart MTN. RD., Coldbrook, NS B4R 1C1 (902) 679-5287. James Kooistra, Stated Clerk.</p>	<p>FULL TIME YOUTH PASTOR POSITION Active Youth ministry looking for strong leadership for Junior, Senior, and Young Adult programs. Consistory and parents seeking direction for young people; outreach to youth in the community a possibility; a warm and growing relationship with Jesus Christ a necessity. Musical appreciation and ability would be an asset.</p>
<p>Experienced, full-time farm help wanted for beef/cash crop operation in Forest, Ont. Remuneration package will include salary and modernized home. Send resume and references to: 1389 Sprucedale Ave., London, ON N5X 2N7.</p>	<p>CLINTON, ONTARIO ADULT LIFE LEASE RESIDENCES available 936 sq. ft. to 1235 sq. ft. Fully wheelchair accessible, sprinkler system, central air, security throughout building. Dutch and English spoken. For more info call (519) 233-7296 or (519) 482-7862.</p>	<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<p>If you see yourself meeting these needs in a growing rural congregation of 100 families and have academic qualifications and/or experience to make it all happen, then we would be pleased to hear from you! Send your profile to First CRC, 3902 Heritage Drive, Taber, AB T1G 1A2. For a church profile or if you have any questions contact us by phone (403) 223-2331, fax (403) 223-0791, or e-mail Pastor Mike Vandyk, mvandyk@telusplanet.net</p>
<p>Second Christian Reformed Church of Abbotsford is seeking a part-time music and worship co-ordinator to work with the pastors and worship committee to recruit and train members of the congregation for increased participation and leadership in music and worship. Appreciation of the Reformed tradition and CRC Psalter Hymnal and familiarity with contemporary praise music are important. Salary is negotiable. Detailed job description is available upon request. Direct inquiries and/or submit applications to:</p> <p>The Worship Committee of Second Christian Ref. Church 34631 Old Clayburn Road Abbotsford, BC V2S 4H5 Phone: (604) 853-6151</p>	<p>EH JI SHOW Christian TV Entertainment Times: Vision TV Cable Network Thursday mornings 6:30 a.m. ET & PT 7:30 a.m. MT & AT Also CJIL-TV (The Miracle Channel) Lethbridge, Alberta 9:30 a.m. and a repeat in evening Sponsored by Voortman Cookies Web page: www.ehji.com</p>	<p>the Netherlands ALL THE NEWS AND MUCH MORE... <i>the Windmill</i> Only \$23.50 per year <i>Ask for a trial copy.</i> Canada: P.O. Bag 9033, Surrey, BC V3T 4X3 USA: P.O. Box 313, Lynden, WA 98264-0313 Phone: 1-800-881-0705 fax: (604) 532-1734 email: windmill@pro.net Internet: http://www.GoDutch.com Book Catalogue: Dutch Heritage Pages</p>	<p>The Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church of Jarvis, Ont., is seeking a SENIOR PASTOR to minister to its senior members. If you are interested in this part-time position (approx. 10 hours per week), then please contact: Mr. John Kloet (Council Chair) at (519) 587-4145 or RR #1, Jarvis, ON N0A 1J0.</p>
<p>NURSERY/GREENHOUSE HELP: Wholesale nursery, growing ground covers, flowering shrubs, evergreens, flowering vines and perennial flowers, will be hiring additional staff for spring. Employment is needed in potting, tagging, shipping, tying and propagation. Work involves both being inside and outside. Full-time and seasonal employment. Wages and positions commensurate with experience. Resumes may be dropped off at Willowbrook Nurseries Inc., 1000 Balfour Street, Fenwick, Ont., to the attention of Jane Broere between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30 Monday to Friday. No phone calls please.</p>	<p>Flights DCA Travel SERVICE INC. Canada wide 1-800-667-2525 TORONTO 416-224-5211 BRADFORD 905-775-6763 E-mail: dca_travel@compuserve.com Emergency Service Available Business & Vacation Travel Worldwide! Martinair - KLM - vacation</p>	<p>CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE YEAR 2000 THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CCEF!</p> <p> FOUNDED 1973 CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION, Inc. For more information contact our Executive Director: Fred R. Vander Velde 2621 Cavendish Drive, Burlington, Ontario L7P 3W6 Tel: (905) 336-5619 Fax: (905) 336-2376 day or evening</p>	<p>Fruitland Christian Reformed Church of Stoney Creek, Ontario (30-minute drive from Niagara Falls) is seeking a FULL-TIME PASTOR with full responsibility for the ministry of the church, beginning May 1, 1999. We are a stable, loving congregation. A church profile is available upon request. Please send inquiries and resumes to: Jack De Gelder, 4 Brajer Court, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 4G9 or call Search Committee Chairman John Bergshoeff at (905) 945-5819. Church e-mail: AK496@hwn.org</p>
<p></p>	<p>Event NEDERLANDSE PAASZANGDIENST Wij nodigen U uit voor onze Nederlandse Paaszangdienst op Zondag, 4 April, 1999, 7:30 n.m. in de Emmanuel Reformed Church, 170 Clarke St. North, Woodstock, Ont. Na de dienst is er gelegenheid om vrienden te ontmoeten onder het gebruik van koffie en thee.</p>		<p>GIFTED WITH YOUTH? 60% of our members are under the age of 29! Neerlandia CRC is seeking to fill a new, full-time YOUTH DIRECTOR position. This will be a team ministry in a large rural church (100 families) in north-central Alberta. Experience preferred. Information package available on request. Contact: Neerlandia CRC Search Committee c/o Gene DeGroot Box 182, Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0 Phone: (780) 674-2017 Fax: (780) 674-6085 email: edegroot@telusplanet.net</p>

Classifieds

Teachers	Teachers	Teachers	Miscellaneous
<p>DUNCAN, BC: Duncan Christian School Association operates a Christian interdenominational day school from K-12 with 350 students. We invite applications for the following position: Elementary: One possible vacancy at the primary level. The qualifying applicant should be eligible for B.C. Certification. Please send resume to:</p> <p>Mrs. J.M. Spykema 5781 Chesterfield St., Duncan, BC V9L 3M1 Phone: (250) 746-5341 Fax: (250) 746-3615</p>	<p>SURREY, B.C.: The Surrey Christian School, operating a primary and middle campus, is inviting applications for possible openings at all levels (Grades K-8). Applicants are asked to send complete resumes including professional training, written recommendations and statement of faith to:</p> <p>Surrey Christian School Att.: Mr. Anthonie Jansen 9115 — 160 Street Surrey, BC V4N 2X7</p>	<p>ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alta: Rocky Christian School, a K-Grade 9 interdenominational society school, is now accepting applications for a .45 Kindergarten teaching position for the 1999/2000 school year. Send resumes, including a Statement of Faith and Philosophy of Christian Education to:</p> <p>Ben Bergen, Principal Rocky Christian School 5204 - 54 Avenue Rocky Mountain House, AB T0M 1T3 Phone: (403) 845-3516 Fax: (403) 845-4370</p> <p>Deadline for applying is April 6, 1999. We are also accepting resumes for potential teaching positions at Rocky Christian School.</p>	<p>East Christian Reformed Church 476 Metcalfe St. E. Strathroy, Ontario</p> <p>cordially invites former members to attend our special "Thanksgiving Celebration" events marking the last Sunday we will be worshipping in our present sanctuary. Saturday evening, April 10, 1999, a desert/coffee social is planned, along with a special program, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>On Sunday, April 11, 9:30 a.m., we are pleased to have Rev. W. Buursma leading the worship service. Pastor Eric Pennings will be leading the evening service at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Plans for the new sanctuary will be implemented the following week. Call (519) 245-0851 if you require any further information.</p>

ABBOTSFORD, BC: Abbotsford Christian School is inviting applications for **primary and intermediate positions** opening in September 1999 at its Heritage Campus. Applications are also being sought for a **full or part-time librarian's position** that also opens in September. The Heritage Campus is a K-7 elementary school, enrolling 320 students. Applications may be sent to:

Lloyd Den Boer, Principal,
Heritage Campus
2884 Mission Highway,
Abbotsford, BC V2S 3Y2
Phone: (604) 850-5022
Fax: (604) 859-9995
e-mail: ldenboer@uniserve.com



RRSP SOLUTIONS FROM INVESTORS GROUP



WHEN YOU TURN 69 THIS YEAR
WHICH WAY WILL YOU TURN
WITH YOUR RRSP?

Call Clarence Weima at 1-800-488-9817 to get the proven advice you need to make the right decisions — including planning for inflation and income taxes.
weimac1@investorsgroup.com

Serving all of
Southwestern Ontario
Investors Group
Investment Group Financial Services Inc.

A trade mark owned by Investors Group Inc. and licensed to its affiliated corporations.



Attention all ye who offer
vacation products and services.
The May 3 Christian Courier promises to be a
great guide to unforgettable vacation-time
experiences. Your ad should be in there, too.
Call 1 (800) 969-4838 for our Fax Info Sheet.
Hey! No obligation.

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL — ST. THOMAS, ON
is searching for a
TEACHING PRINCIPAL
for the school year 1999/2000. The school has a present enrolment of 126 students from 61 school families. Please send your resume, with a statement of faith and your philosophy of education to:

Principal Search Committee
Ebenezer Christian School
77 Fairview Avenue
St. Thomas, ON N5R 4X7

For more information:
Mr. B. Pasma
(519) 631-6261 (home)
(519) 633-0690 (school)
e-mail: bpasma@execulink.com

VANCOUVER, B.C.: Vancouver Christian School, a denominationally diverse community which offers Kindergarten through Grade 10, may have openings in the following areas for the 1999/2000 school year: a full-time **science/math/computer teacher** for middle school/junior high; an **80%+music/band/strings teacher**; a **part-time intermediate French (Grades 4-6)** and several potential **primary positions**. We also have an **opening covering a five-month maternity leave** from September to January. All applicants should have a love for and commitment to Christian education, as well as energy and excitement about working in a city school. Deadline for replies is March 31st, 1999. Please send your resume, statement of faith and a copy of your teaching certificate to:

Ellen Freestone, Acting Principal
Vancouver Christian School
3496 Mons Drive
Vancouver, B.C. V5M 3E6
No applications by fax, please.

Martinair Holland

VISIT US at dca-travel.com

AMSTERDAM

from **\$499**

Book by April 1 1999 and receive a \$20 adult/senior DCA discount*

Depart Toronto	Adult	Senior	Child
Apr. 26, 29	559	539	499 *for Toronto
May 03, 06, 10, 13	579	559	499 departures
May 17, 20, 24, 27, 31	599	579	509 only
Jun. 03, 07, 10, 13	639	599	529
Jun. 17, 21, 24, 28	699	659	549
Jul. 01, 05, 09, 12	759	699	599
Jul. 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	799	739	599
Aug. 02, 05, 09, 12	799	739	599
Aug. 16, 19, 23, 26, 30	759	699	599

Sept. and Oct. rates available — call for details. Star Class \$480 surcharge. Tax \$59.

**VANCOUVER
CALGARY
EDMONTON**
FROM
\$688
TAXES EXTRA

Toronto (416) 224-5211

DCA Travel & Cruise 1-800-667-2525

SAVE → SAVE → SAVE → SAVE → SAVE →

**PACIFIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
VICTORIA, B.C.**

Come to scenic Victoria on the beautiful West Coast and join a dynamic and enthusiastic staff in an exciting, interdenominational K-12 school system of nearly 800 students on two campuses.

TEACHERS REQUIRED FOR THE 1999/2000 SCHOOL YEAR:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • 2 Elementary classroom teachers (Grades 2-3 level) | • Elementary School Librarian (Experience and/or training preferred) |
| • Elementary French & Music | • Secondary Band and/or Choir |
| • Elementary Learning Assistance | • Secondary Art |
| • Secondary French | |

Teachers must be committed Christians and certifiable by the B.C. College of Teachers. Send letter of application, resume and statement of faith to:

Bill Helmus, Elementary Principal
Pacific Christian School
671 Agnes Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 2E7
Phone: (250) 479-9365
Fax: (250) 479-3685

John Messelink, Secondary Principal
Pacific Christian School
654 Agnes Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 2E6
Phone: (250) 479-4532
(250) 479-3511



Events

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

50th ANNIVERSARY

IRON SPRINGS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

1949 — MAY 22, 23, 24 — 1999

May 22, Saturday — Program at 7:00 p.m.

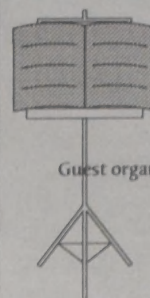
May 23, Sunday — Worship Services at 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

May 24, Monday — Lunch/Activities — 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
on the Iron Springs School GroundsA GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BOOK will be
printed and available before year end 1999.

Cost \$25.00 (includes mailing)

Contact: P.O. Box 422, Picture Butte, AB, T0K 1V0
Phone / Fax: 1-403-732-4346

Calendar of Events

Items appearing in this column are run free of charge
when they accompany a paid advertisement for the same event.
The charge otherwise is \$7.50 per line, or \$2.50 per 1/2 line, per insertion.**Mar. 26** Hosanna Choir/Mattaniah Male Choir/RCS Junior School Choir Combined Concert, **Burlington**, Ont., Park Bible Church, 8 p.m. Tickets at the door. See ad. (#)**Mar. 26 and 27** The Choraliers, **Burlington**, Ont., Burlington CRC, New Street, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Info: (905) 822-0531 or (905) 793-6158. (#)**Mar. 27** Spring Concert by the choirs & band of the Ontario Christian Music Assembly under the direction of Leendert Kooij. **Trenton**, Ont., King St. United Church, 8 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$10, Students \$6. Children under 12: free. Ticket information: Rita Vander Molen (613) 392-3020. (#)**March 27** "The Dis-Ease of Alcoholism". **Burlington**, Ont., Faith Christian Reformed Church, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (8:30 a.m. coffee). See ad. Info: (905) 563-1329. (#)**Apr. 1-17** "Table Talk". Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont., Matth Cupido art exhibition. Opening April 1, 1999, 8 p.m. See ad. (#)**Apr. 4** Nederlandse Paaszangdienst, **Woodstock**, Ont., Emmanuel Reformed Church, 170 Clarke St. N., 7:30 p.m.**Apr. 10** Spring Concert by the choirs & band of the Ontario Christian Music Assembly under the direction of Leendert Kooij. **St. Catharines**, Ont., St. Thomas Anglican Church, 8 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$10, Students \$6. Children under 12: free. Ticket information: Henk Voordouw (905) 684-8857. (#)**Apr. 10** Hosanna Choir, **Stratford**, Ont., Knox Presbyterian Church, 142 Ontario St., 7:30 p.m. Freewill offering for Stratford Christian School. (#)**Apr. 14** Mattaniah Male Choir in **Woodstock**, Ont., Central United Church, 32 Riddell, 8 p.m. Admission at the door. See ad. (#)**Apr. 17** Spring Concert by the choirs & band of the Ontario Christian Music Assembly under the direction of Leendert Kooij. **Alliston**, Ont., St. Johns United Church (Victoria St. E.), 8 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$10, Students \$6. Children under 12: free. Ticket information: (705) 435-6522.**Apr. 17** Hosanna Choir, **Hamilton**, Ont., Central Presbyterian Church (Caroline/Charlton) CD recording of well-known Psalms/Hymns, 7 p.m. Open to anyone 16 and over. Free Admission. See ad. (#)**Apr. 21** Mattaniah Male, **Wellandport**, Ont., Wellandport Orthodox Reformed Church, 8 p.m. Admission at the door. See ad. (#)**Apr. 23** Hosanna Choir, **Hamilton**, Ont., Central Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. Admission at the door. See ad. (#)**Apr. 24** Mattaniah Male Choir, **Hamilton**, Ont., CD Recording of male congregational singing. Central Presbyterian Church (Caroline/Charlton), 7 p.m. Free Admission. Open to men ages 16 and over. (#)**Apr. 24** Ancaster CRC presents Celebration of Music featuring the choir, soloist, organ and piano duets, a youth brass ensemble plus audience participation. **Ancaster**, Ont., Ancaster CRC on Hwy. 53 E., 8 p.m. Free will offering. Info (905) 648-2323.**May 2** Dutch Service. Rev. Ralph Koops, **Ancaster**, Ont., 3 p.m.The Brampton/Georgetown Christian Male choir,
THE CHORALERS,

will give their annual concert, D.V.,

March 26, 1999, in the Burlington CRC, New Street,
and March 27, 1999, in the Second CRC, Brampton.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Guest organist Christopher Dawes and soloist Charlene Flikkema.

Tickets are \$10 each.

Advance tickets available from

George Ter Steege, President, at (905) 822-0531

or Henoch Henneveld, Secretary, at (905) 793-6158,

or any member of the choir.

You are cordially invited!

Upcoming Concerts

by the Hosanna Mixed Choir and Mattaniah

Christian Male Choir under the direction of

Herman den Hollander.

Hosanna Choir organist is John VanderLaan; the

Mattaniah Male Choir organist is Andre Knevel.

Mar. 26 - Hosanna Choir/ (905) 628-1211.

Mattaniah Male Choir/ RCS Junior

School Choir Combined Concert at

Park Bible Church in Burlington,

Ont. (Kerns Rd./N. Service Rd.) at

8 p.m. Tickets at the door.

Apr. 10 - Hosanna Choir in

Stratford, Ont. at Knox

Presbyterian Church, 142 Ontario

St., at 7:30 p.m. Freewill offering

for Stratford Christian School.

Apr. 14 - Mattaniah Male Choir in

Woodstock, Ont. at Central United

Church, 32 Riddell, at 8 p.m. With

special guest pianist Lieselotte

Fennema from the Netherlands.

Admission at the door.

Apr. 17 - Hosanna Choir in

Hamilton, Ont. at Central

Presbyterian Church

(Caroline/Charlton) CD recording

of well-known Psalms/Hymns.

With Lieselotte Fennema. Open to

anyone 16 and over. Free

Admission. Time: 7 p.m. Phone:

Apr. 21 -

Mattaniah Male Choir in

Wellandport, Ont. At Wellandport

Orthodox Reformed Church,

beginning at 8 p.m. Admission at

the door. With Dutch pianist

Lieselotte Fennema. Phone: (905)

892-6391.

Apr. 23 - Hosanna Choir in

Hamilton, Ont. At Central

Presbyterian Church

(Caroline/Charlton) at 8 p.m.

Admission at the door. With Dutch

pianist Lieselotte Fennema.

Phone: (905) 628-1211.

Apr. 24 - Mattaniah Male Choir

CD - Recording of male

congregational singing. Central

Presbyterian Church

(Caroline/Charlton) in Hamilton,

Ont. at 7 p.m. With Dutch

pianist Lieselotte Fennema. Free

Admission. Open to men ages 16

and over. Phone: (905) 628-1211.

Redeemer College Art Department presents

MATTH CUPIDO
ON
"TABLETALK"An exhibition of art
portraying the
passion and suffering
of Jesus

OPENING

Thursday, April 1, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.

Redeemer College Art Gallery

The exhibit will run until April 17, 1999



Redeemer College

777 Garner Road E. (Hwy. 53), Ancaster, ON, L9K 1J4, (905) 648-2131, www.redeemer.on.ca

Future issues of *Christian Courier* will focus on Holistic
Health (April 1), Vacation (May 3), and Aging (May
17). Submit manuscripts three weeks before issue date

News

Parents speak for themselves in education

John Vanasselt

ANCASTER, Ont. — Parents from a variety of independent school communities are working together "to expand education choice in Ontario," through an organization called Parents for Educational Choice (PEC).

For about a year, a small group of organizers has discussed ways to mobilize other parents to put pressure on their provincial government. And now they are seeing the fruits of their labors.

According to the PEC organizers, there is increasing interest and participation in education matters by parents across the province as the next provincial election draws closer. The goal of PEC is to move the government to enact policies and legislation in support of children attending independent schools.

Support from Alliance welcome

Tina Van Beveren, a Christian school parent and teacher from Ancaster, Ontario, has chaired PEC planning meetings and is pleased to have the official support of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS).

"Our organization provides parents with the information and tools to speak for themselves as constituents and voters," says Van Beveren. "To have the resources of the OACS will be a tremendous help."

The idea behind PEC, according to Van Beveren, is to encourage parents to press MPPs to bring Ontario's education funding practices in line with most of the rest of the Western world, including the other five large provinces.

PEC has one major goal — equal educational opportunities for all children. Among the many steps that could be taken by government to correct the situation, the three most important, says PEC, are: fair funding for all students in the province; equal access to medical services for all students through the *School Health Support Services Program*; and the inclusion of independent schools in government programs such as software purchases and other technology-related initiatives.

Empowering parents

"The fact that there is no official organizational position, just a common goal, is what really interested me," says Frank Swoboda, a pastor and Christian school parent from the Strathroy, Ontario, area. Swoboda likes the idea of empowering parents to speak to



Helping parents speak on their own behalf. L.-r.: Wayne Levin, Frank Swoboda, and Tina Van Beveren developing strategy for Parents for Educational Choice.

politicians. "PEC accomplishes a couple of good things," he says. "Parents become more informed about the contributions made by the independent school sector, and they become actively involved in the democratic process."

Swoboda suggests the notion of Public Independent Education (PIE) — the idea that all students attending schools where agreed upon standards are met should benefit from fair funding. "Getting their piece of the PIE, so to speak."

Wayne Levin, a consultant in management sciences from the Toronto borough of North York, sends his children to a Jewish school. True to his training as an engineer, he sees the issue in terms of practicality.

"We are tired of being treated like second-class citizens," he states emphatically. "We pay education taxes but then must pay a second time for our children's education since we cannot in good conscience send our children to secular public schools or Catholic schools. If funding is good for Catholics, it's good for Jews, for Christians and for other religiously based school communities."

Levin is encouraged by growing support in the Jewish community as evidenced by over 3000 (and rising) signatures on a PEC petition addressing the government on the issue of funding.

International support

PEC cites various international statements in support of its goal, including United Nations documents to which Canada and Ontario are signatories. Van Beveren observes, "All of Western Europe,

Australia, New Zealand, 37 American states, and the other five major provinces provide government support for the education of all students. What's the problem here in Ontario?"

At a 1996 summit of education ministers convened by the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) governments were urged to "establish an environment that encourages individuals to take greater responsibility for their own and their children's learning and, where appropriate, permit choice as to where they acquire the learning they need."

But that goal has yet to be reached in Ontario. Van Beveren maintains that true choice exists only where there are no financial penalties or burdens attached to the choice.

Lots of voters

PEC has approached parents from a variety of religious school movements, from the Montessori schools and from the home-schooling organizations. "Moving the government to be fair to all children is our common ground," says Levin.

Citing numbers compiled by the Ontario Ministry of Education, he estimates there are 40,000-50,000 parents with an immediate interest in this issue, "and that's not counting thousands more who don't have children in school at the moment."

Given historical voting patterns, PEC aims to be a significant factor in the upcoming provincial election. The organizers believe independent school parents have a much higher voting rate than the

general public, and in the face of this strong grassroots activity, candidates and incumbents will be required to seriously consider their position on education funding for all students.

More information can be obtained from Parents for Educational Choice; PEC, 617 Highway 53 East, Ancaster, ON; (905) 648-0175; websites: www.pec@xcelco.on.ca and www.total.net/~levin; e-mail: fswoboda@xcelco.on.ca and EqualEd@total.net.

College students needed to aid persecuted Christians

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Religion Today) — College students are needed to help persecuted Christians. Representatives of the Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C., are encouraging Christians at both secular and religion-based universities to take part in a nationwide letter-writing campaign to the U.S. Congress.

The organization hopes to mobilize 250,000 people to send letters urging legislators to stand up for religious freedom around the world, it said. Sample letters and links to congressional offices can be found at the Freedom House web site at: <http://www.freedomhouse.org>

News Digest

Walking in Jesus' footsteps

ISRAEL (Religion Today) — Pilgrims can "walk in Jesus' footsteps" on the Sea of Galilee.

The Israel National Parks Authority is building a 28-foot by 13-foot bridge that will be submerged under two inches of water, allowing visitors to simulate Christ's miraculous walk, the Associated Press says. The parks authority talked with local Christian leaders to make sure the idea was not offensive or in bad taste, said Zeev Margalit, head of planning. They said that the bridge would "not hurt the feelings of the Christian tourists." An estimated four million religious pilgrims are expected to visit Israel in 2000.

Sweet smell of success

SEOUL, Korea (AP) — As Lee Soo-bum nears home after an evening out with the guys, he shakes and occasionally rubs his chest. Although he's been drinking with colleagues in a smoke-filled bar, Lee doesn't reek of booze and cigarettes. In fact, he smells downright sweet.

"This new suit helps keep peace at home," says Lee of his fashionable beige wool suit. It smells like lavender, and the more he moves, the stronger the scent becomes. The suit is made with fabric soaked in a chemical that contains scented microcapsules, which pop and release the odor when the wearer moves.

Three Korean fashion houses began selling the scented suits in February. All three makers say the suits are outselling their regular new suit lines. The suits come in scents such as lavender, pine and peppermint.

Low respect for clergy

HAMBURG, Germany (Religion Today) — Germans say they'll attend church more this year even though they don't like the preachers. A poll by a weekly magazine in Hamburg found that 22 per cent of the population made a New Year's resolution to attend services more often. About five per cent of Protestants and 18 per cent of Catholics attend church weekly.

The poll showed that Germans consider clergy worthy of less respect than doctors, police, engineers, salespeople, teachers, actors, journalists and bankers. Only politicians have a lower reputation.